CREATED BY LEIJI MATSUMOTO
INSPIRED BY THE OPERA CYCLE BY RICHARD WAGNER

Der Ring des Nibelungen

THE VALKYRIE

4

Leiji MATSUMOTO
松本零士

kana

A manga series originally
inspired by
Der Ring Des Nibelungen,
an opera in four parts
composed by Richard Wagner
(1813 – 1883)

Volumes 1 – 8
translated and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the French language version
released by Kana Press

Volumes 9 – 10
re-edited and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the original English release
on the old Shinchosa web site
(www.shinchosa.co.jp)

Introduction by Richard Mandel

To my knowledge, this is the first time that anyone has attempted to bring Leiji Matsumoto's *Harlock Saga* manga series to English speaking audiences. It is certainly the largest and longest manga translation project I have ever undertaken myself.

This is a first draft of my personal translation that I have used in my various Leijiverse researches. It is based on the French language version published by Kana Press in 2002. A "reverse translation," if you will. I translated it using *Power Translator* computer software, then rewrote all of the pidgin English that the computer spit back out into something an English-speaking person could actually read, understand, and enjoy. As such, it is more of an adaptation than a translation, and not very accurate in more places than most of us might care for -- but it gets the job done. I hope it suffices until someone who can speak and read the native Japanese comes along to do a more accurate rendition. Someone had to be first in doing this, and it may as well have been me.

I have taken the liberty of "streamlining" my English adaptation for the sake of those readers not familiar with the Leijiverse in general and the mythos behind this story. Whole chapters of dialogue have been rewritten as a result, and a dozen or so graphic panels which I believe are incorrect have been altered or replaced with alternate ones. Hopefully these editorial changes on my part will help clear up some of the confusion experienced by earlier readers of this work, who got to experience it in the original Japanese. I apologize in advance for any errors or mistakes I might have made during this process.

The Valkyrie

Ring 22 ; With Keen Sight

SHE WOULD NEVER DEFY MY WILL!

BRUNHILDE? NO ... SHE WON'T!

THERE WAS A TIME, WOTAN WHEN I WISHED I HAD NEVER LET YOU SEDUCE ME ...

HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST SUCH A THING!

... AND OUR BRUNHILDE, YOUR MOST BELOVED, WILL BE THE FIRST!

... BUT NOW I REJOICE IN THE FOREKNOWLEDGE THAT ALL OF OUR DAUGHTERS WILL EVENTUALLY REBEL AGAINST YOU ...

I KNOW HER HEART BETTER THAN YOU, WOTAN. SHE WILL BETRAY YOU. THIS I PROPHESY.

SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY GIRL, NOT YOURS! YOU'RE WRONG ERDA!!

NO, SHE WON'T! SHE'LL NEVER BETRAY ME!!

... AND SHE IS ALREADY AWARE OF HOW GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. OYAMA ARE HEROES OF THAT TIME AND PLACE.

BRUNHILDE'S CONSCIENCE WILL NOT LET HER BECOME A PAWN OF YOUR SELFISH PETTINESS ...

... WILL CHOOSE TO FOLLOW THE REAL HEROES INSTEAD OF THE SELFISH WHIMS OF A PETTY TYRANT!

... THAT THE DAY IS SOON COMING WHEN MY DAUGHTERS, THE VALKYRIES ...

AND I SAY TO YOU, LORD WOTAN ...

YOU SPEAK TO ONE WHO OVERTHREW THE ANCIENT EVIL! WHO PUT DOWN THE REVOLT OF THE NIBELUNGEN! ONE WHO HAS WALKED THE VAST HALLS OF BOTH SPACE AND TIME!!

YOU CALL THOSE HUMANS "HEROES?!" BAH!!

... WHEN THE HUMANS STRIKE YOU DOWN.

YOU WILL EAT THOSE WORDS, WOTAN ...

... AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THEN THEY WILL COME AFTER YOU TO FINSH WHAT YOU STARTED.

YOU HAVE ALREADY SET IN MOTION THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WILL LEAD THEM BACK HERE. VERY SOON NOW, THEY WILL MASTER TIME AS WELL AS THEY DO SPACE ...

YOU UNDERESTIMATE HER LOYALTY TO ME, ERDA. SHE WILL DO AS SHE IS TOLD.

PROVIDED BRUNHILDE DOES NOT KILL THOSE BOYS FIRST.

AHHH, WOTAN ... WHY DO YOU DELUDE YOURSELF EVEN NOW?

WHY MUST YOU SACRIFICE OUR DAUGHTER ON THIS HOPELESS TASK?

I AM THE DOOMSAYER OF VALHALLA. I HAVE SPOKEN.

SACRIFICE?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!!

ERDA!!!

ERDA?

ERDA ...

AH, ERDA, ERDA ... WHAT WAS IT THAT HAPPENED TO US?

YOU WERE NOT SO COLD AND HAUGHTY THEN. I STILL REMEMBER THE WARMTH OF YOUR BODY NEXT TO MINE, AND THE TASTE OF YOUR LIPS ...

IT WAS AS IF SHE HAD VANISHED. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SNEAKY LIKE THAT ....

SHE WENT TO HER VESSEL AND LEFT VALHALLA. AFTER THAT, WE LOST HER ...

DID YOU SEE WHERE SHE WAS GOING?

HOW PATHETIC! YOU HAVE FALLEN FAR, WOTAN ...
THERE IS NO NEED TO GO BACK UNTIL THE APPOINTED TIME DRAWS NIGH. UNTIL THEN ....

REACH THROUGH THE RINGS OF TIME, AND CALL BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS BACK HERE AT ONCE!! NEVER MIND THEIR MISSION!! RETURN AT ONCE!!!!

FREYA! PLAY WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!! MAKE THE HEAVENS TREMBLE!!!

CALL THEM BACK, FREYA!!

I WONDER WHAT THE "LORD OF VALHALLA" IS PROCLAMING NOW.

HMMM ... NOW THAT'S WEIRD. THE WAVEFORM IS BREAKING UP ... BECOMING MORE DISSONANT.

UPSET? AS IN ANGRY UPSET?

WOTAN SOUNDS UPSET.

I BELIEVE HE MAY BE TRYING TO RECALL BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS TO VALHALLA. WHY, I DO NOT KNOW, BUT HE WANTS THEM BACK AS SOON AS IT CAN BE MANAGED.

NO ... SOMETHING HAS DISTURBED HIM. I SENSE AN EMOTION RARE IN THE GODS ... I SENSE FEAR. WOTAN IS AFRAID OF SOMETHING.

THAT OLD FOOL!!

AREN'T GODS NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE ANY FEAR? HOW CAN THE RULE THE UNIVERSE AND YET BE AFRAID?!

I COULD NEVER BOW MY KNEE TO SUCH A GOD! THAT IS WHY I FIGHT UNDER MY OWN FLAG - NOT ANOTHER'S!!

OH, NO! THAT WAS PERFECT!!

YOU WANT TO ADD SOMETHING, DR. OYAMA?

WE SAIL THE SEA OF STARS AS FREE MEN, UNDER THE FLAG OF FREEDOM!!!

WE BOW TO THE WILL OF NONE BUT OUR OWN! WE FIGHT UNDER NO FLAG BUT OUR OWN!!

HOIST OUR BANNER!!!!

HAS THERE BEEN ANY RESPONSE FROM BRUNHILDE?

PLANET METABLOODY?!

ANY WORD? ANY SIGN? ANYTHING?

HER MISSION WAS TO BRING ABOUT THE DEATHS OF THOSE FOUR -- NOT TO SOCIALIZE WITH EVERY SINGLE HUMANOID AND METANOID THAT SHE AND HER SISTERS CAME ACROSS!!

WHY IN THE HIGH HEAVENS WOULD SHE GO THERE? IT IS A FILTHY, BARBARIC WORLD!

I CANNOT RAISE HER, BUT I HAVE FOUND WHERE SHE IS.

AND THIS EVENT THAT YOU HAVE FOUND ... THAT OF THE METANOID ATTACK ON THE HUMAN SHIP ... THAT IS MOST DISTURBING ....

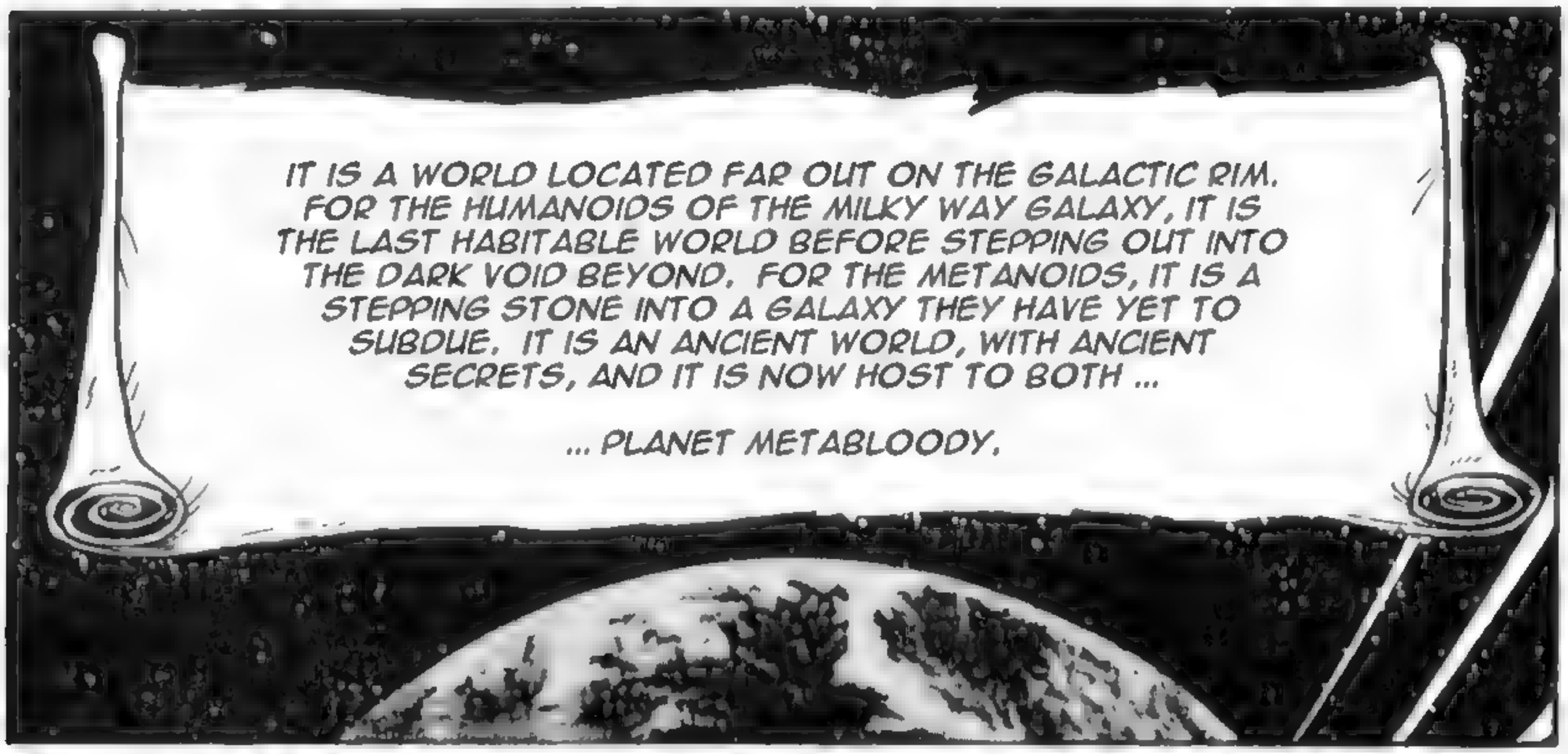
ALREADY THAT RING OF TIME HAS BEGUN TO BEND, AND NOT IN THE WAY I PLANNED! METANOIDS ARE SO GOOD BECAUSE THEY ARE SO STUPID! THEY SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACT ON THEIR OWN LIKE THAT!!

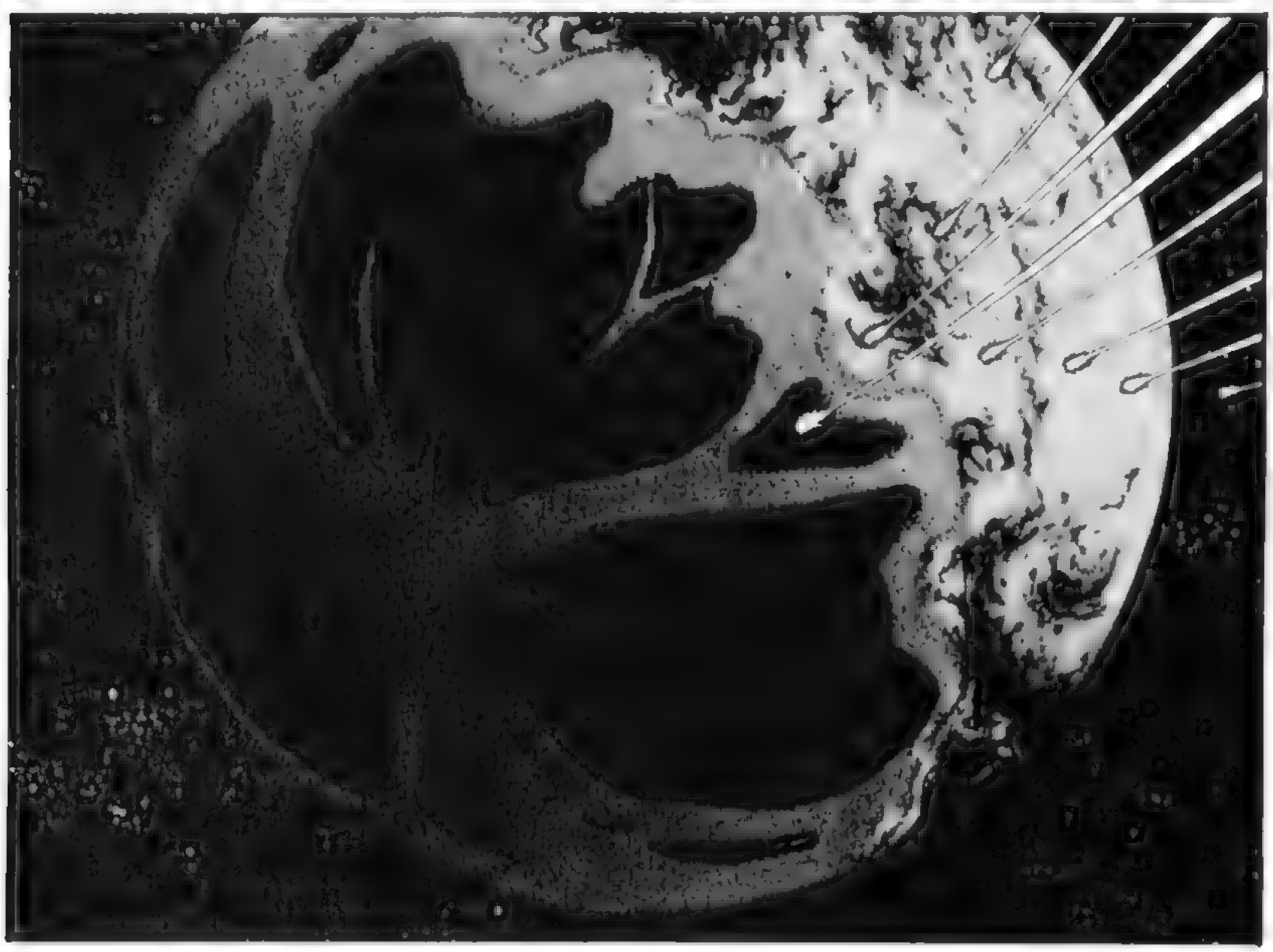
THIS NEW BEND IN THAT RING OF TIME HAS BROUGHT ABOUT STRANGE RESONANCES, WHICH I AM UNABLE TO PIERCE.

MY LORD, I CANNOT REACH BRUNHILDE NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE ARE NOW CUT OFF FROM THEM? THAT THEY ARE NOW TRAPPED IN THAT RING OF TIME, WITH NO WAY BACK? IMPOSSIBLE!

WHAT HAVE I DONE?
OH, MY SWEET BRUNHILDE ...


IT IS A WORLD LOCATED FAR OUT ON THE GALACTIC RIM. FOR THE HUMANOIDS OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY, IT IS THE LAST HABITABLE WORLD BEFORE STEPPING OUT INTO THE DARK VOID BEYOND. FOR THE METANOIDS, IT IS A STEPPING STONE INTO A GALAXY THEY HAVE YET TO SUBDUE. IT IS AN ANCIENT WORLD, WITH ANCIENT SECRETS, AND IT IS NOW HOST TO BOTH ...
... PLANET METABLOODY.



HEY, LOOK AT THAT!

WOTAN'S VALKYRIES! ALERT THE COMMANDER AT ONCE!!

TO MAINTAIN OUR COVER, SIR. SO THEY WON'T KNOW WE ARE NOW IN THEIR GALAXY.

THOSE HUMANS ... WHY MUST WE PUT UP WITH THEM?

I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T EVER WANT TO KNOW. YOU KNOW THEIR REPUTATION!

WHY ARE THE VALKYRIES COMING HERE, I WONDER?

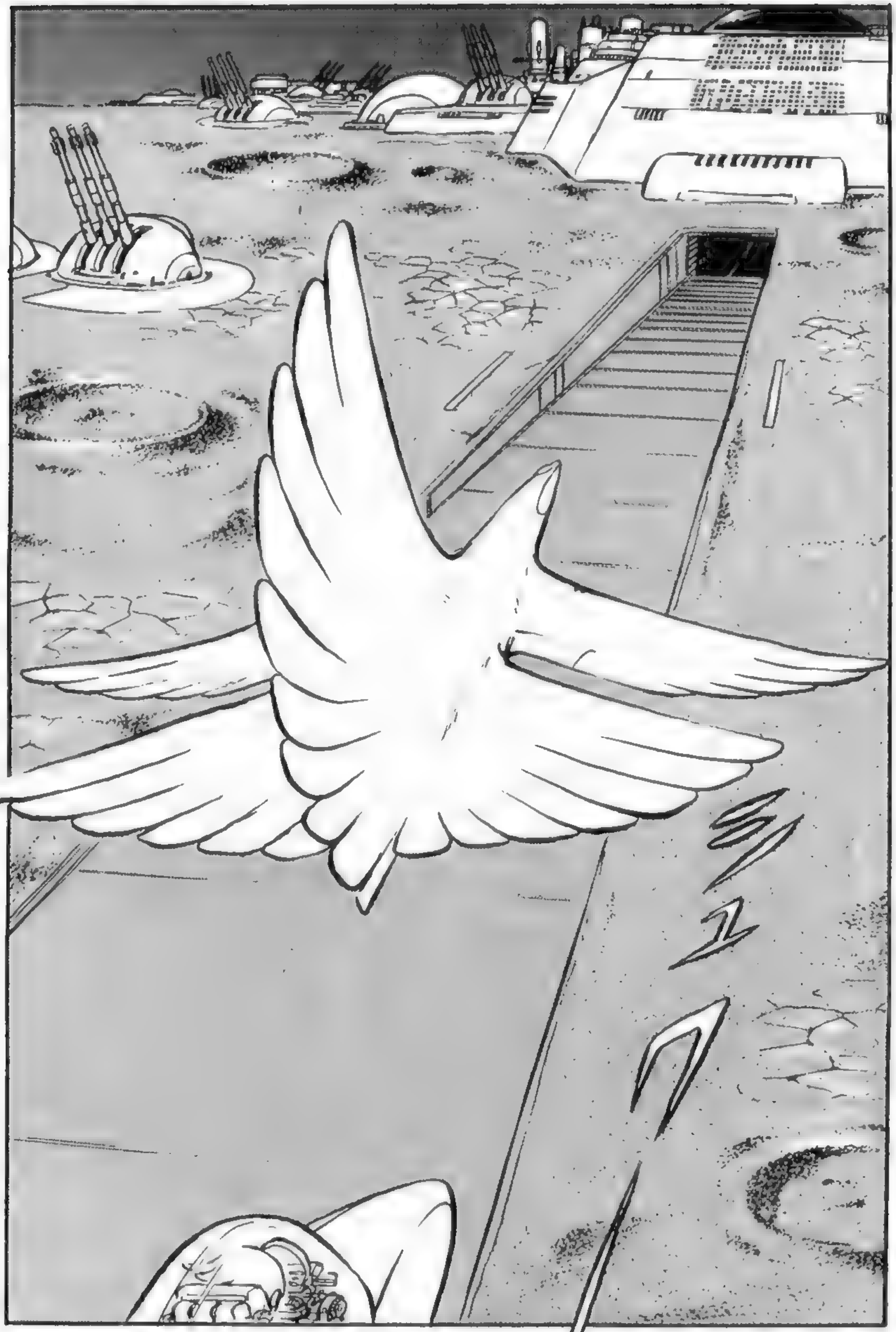
WHAT AN INTERESTING WORLD! IT HAS A NORMAL TYPE OCEAN, WITH DEEP IRIDESCENT HUES OF BLUE AND GREEN ...

... AND YET THE LAND IS MOSTLY BARREN, COVERED WITH GREAT LAVA FIELDS AND LARGE DUSTY DESERTS.

THIS IS BRUNHILDE, DAUGHTER OF WOTÁN, TO THE COMMANDER OF THE METANOID BASE. OPEN THE LANDING BAY AT ONCE!

DOORS OPENING! WE STAND READY TO RECEIVE YOU!!

YES, MA'AM!



THE VALKYRES ARE NOW HEADING TO THE PLANET METABLOODY. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT?

THERE IT GOES. I'VE LOST THE ORGAN'S SIGNAL, HARLOCK, AND I DON'T KNOW WHY.

I THINK WE OUGHT TO FOLLOW THEM. THIS MIGHT PROVE INTERESTING ... !!

LIKE DISTANT HEAVY MELDER, THE PLANET METABLOODY IS LOCATED AT THE CONJUNCTION OF MULTIPLE MAJOR SPACE TRADE ROUTES ON THE GALACTIC RIM. IT IS THE ONLY STABLE WORLD IN A STAR SYSTEM THAT HAS SUFFERED FROM TIME-SPACE DISTURBANCES FOR AS LONG AS BEINGS HAVE LIVED THERE. THERE IS A THRIVING HUMAN COLONY ON METABLOODY ... AS WELL AS A SECRET ONE OF EXTRAGALACTIC ORIGIN. AND NOW, IT PLAYS HOST TO NINE ETERNAL VIRGIN WARRIORS ... ONES WHO DO NOT BELONG IN THE PAST OF THIS RING OF TIME.

The Valkyrie

Ring 23 : Hotel Metabloody

AS BELOW, SO ABOVE. MANY MEETINGS AND PARTINGS TAKE PLACE ON THE SEA OF STARS. MANY MEETINGS ARE BY CHANCE, YET ALMOST ALL PARTINGS ARE FOREVER ... FOR THE SEA OF STARS IS SO VAST THAT THE HUMAN MIND CAN NEVER FULLY COMPREHEND IT.

WHAT IS IT, DR. OYAMA?

THE VALKYRIES HAVE LANDED ON METABLOODY ... HOLD ON! NOW THAT'S ODD ...

WHAT'S THIS THIRD SIGNAL OVER HERE? WE DIDN'T START PICKING IT UP UNTIL THE VALKYRIES LANDED.

HERE'S THE DEATH SHADOW, AND HERE'S THE VALKYRIE SQUADRON.

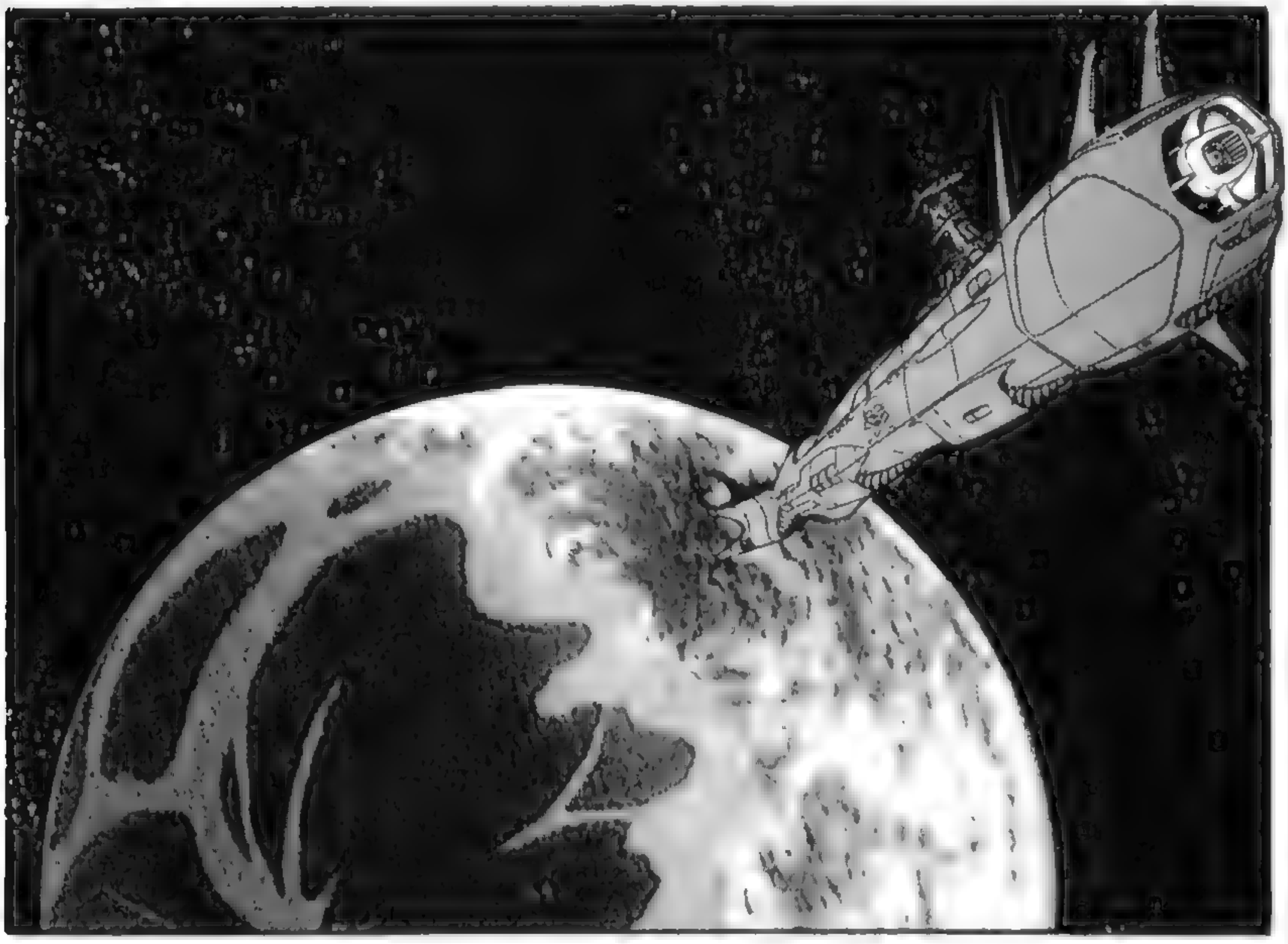
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.

ACCORDING TO THE SHIP'S COMPUTER, IT'S ONE OF THE OLDEST COLONY WORLDS ON THE RIM. LARGE OCEANS AND LARGE DESERTS ...

... AND TWO NATION-STATES FIGHTING EACH OTHER, LIKE IN THE COLD WAR BACK ON 20TH CENTURY EARTH.

I GET THE SHIVERS JUST LOOKING AT IT.

WHAT A CREEPY LOOKING PLANET!



FROM UP HERE, IT'S A SIMPLE-LOOKING WORLD OF OCEANS AND RUSTY DESERT.

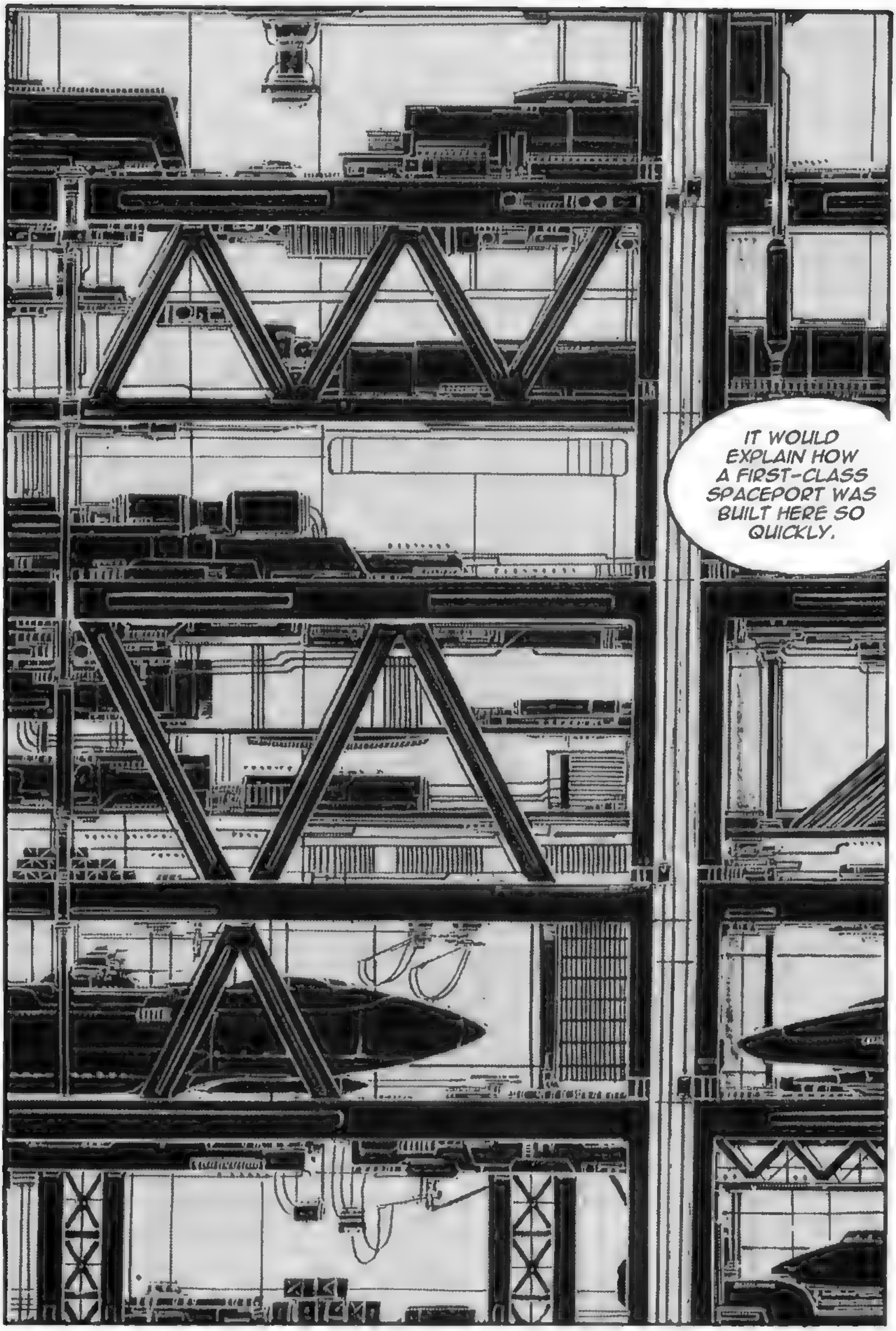
AH, BUT DOWN THERE - NOW THAT'S THE QUESTION!

THE VALKYRIES DIDN'T LAND AT THE CIVILAN SPACEPORT. THEY SET DOWN AT THE BIG MILITARY FIELD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.

WELL, WELL ...

DR. OYAMA, I'VE NOTICED A PATTERN IN THE APPEARANCES OF THE VALKYRIES.

YOU MEAN HOW THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO SHOW UP IN THE SAME PLACES AS THE METANOIDS? YEAH ... I NOTICED THAT, TOO.


IT WOULD EXPLAIN HOW A FIRST-CLASS SPACEPORT WAS BUILT HERE SO QUICKLY.

SO GREAT HARLOCK HAS SURMISED THE EXISTENCE OF THIS BASE. IMPRESSIVE! MOST IMPRESSIVE ....

THE DEATH SHADOW PASSED DIRECTLY OVERHEAD, MA'AM!

THEY SOUND TERRIBLE!

THOSE TWO HUMANS ARE VERY INTELLIGENT. THEY WILL PRETEND NOT TO HAVE SEEN US, BUT DOUBT IT NOT. THAT SHIP OF THEIRS IS ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED BUILT BY HUMANS IN THIS ERA.

THEY ARE BRAVE AND COURAGES, TO BE FEARED IN BATTLE -- BUT THEY ARE ALSO COMPASSIONATE AND CARING. THEY ARE INDEED TRUE MEN.

WHERE IS EVERYONE?! WE ARE HERE!! SHOW YOURSELVES!!!

NO ONE SHOWS UP TO WELCOME US?! I DO NOT LIKE THIS. I FEAR SOMETHING MAY BE WRONG ....

A PERSONAL MATTER?! HE LEFT YOU IN COMMAND OVER A "PERSONAL MATTER?!!"

THE COMMANDER LEFT ME IN CHARGE WHILE HE TOOK CARE OF PERSONAL BUSINESS! I'M SO SORRY I WAS NOT HERE FOR YOUR LANDING!!

MISTRESS BRUNHILDE!!!! MY ABJECT APOLOGIES!!

WHERE IS FLINNATABETH?! I WANT TO SEE HIM AT ONCE!!

NO!! I WILL COME WITH YOU!!!

I WILL FETCH HIM AT ONCE, MY LADY--

LIKE THIS, DOG!!

GZNNK!!

YAGH!!

D-D-DOWN?!

WELL? ARE YOU GOING TO LOWER THAT TRANSPORT PAD, OR SHALL I BRING IT DOWN FOR YOU?

... OR I'LL SLOW BARBECUE YOU RIGHT HERE.

DON'T TRY ANYTHING, LITTLE MAN ...

READY TO GO, MA'AM.

YES, MA'AM!!

HAVE I MADE MYSELF PERFECTLY CLEAR?!?!

FIND OUT WHERE THE BOSS IS -- NOW!!!

WHO TH--?!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!?!

I TAKE IT YOU ARE COMMANDER FUNNATABETH.

BRUNHILDE ... !!

UHMM ...

AHH ...

I ..

COMMANDER ...

IS THIS HOW YOU NORMALLY BEHAVE WHEN ON DUTY, OR AM I MISSING SOMETHING?

YES! TAKE HER TO A CELL AND LOCK HER UP!!!

GET HER OUT OF HERE, YOU FOOLS!

... IS SHE, FLINNATABETH?! LOOK, I DON'T CARE WHO OR WHAT YOU SCREW IN YOUR PRIVATE TIME, BUT NEVER ABANDON YOUR POST AGAIN!!!!

NO ... WAIT. SHE IS NOT THE GUILTY PARTY HERE ...

AT ONCE, MISTRESS BRUNHILDE. THANK YOU, MISTRESS BRUNHILDE ....

LEAVE NOW, CAMP WHORE, WHILE I AM STILL IN THE MOOD TO LET YOU LIVE.

IF I WANTED YOU TO CALL VALHALLA I WOULD HAVE ORDERED IT, FOOL!

BUT ... BUT ...

THAT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.

I NEED TO MAKE A CALL TO VALHALLA AND LET THEM KNOW YOU'VE ARRIV--

DISCREET?! OH, YES! YES! I SEE ...!!
COMMANDER, YOU DO NOT SEEM TO KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD "DISCREET."
THE HOTEL METABLOODY?! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
WE CAN BE REACHED AT THE HOTEL METABLOODY IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SOMETIME. MAYBE YOU COULD PICK UP A POINTER OR TWO.
I KNOW YOU DON'T THINK MUCH OF ME, MA'AM, BUT EVEN I WON'T GO THERE!!

JUST A COUPLE OF OLD FRIENDS, AKIRA!

WHO IS IT?

MANAGER

HABA ...

AMNA ...

GYHA ...

HOW YA' DOIN' THERE, OLD TIMER?!

MANAGER

YOU!!

I SHAVE MY ...?! TOSHRIO OYAMA, I OUGHTTA PULL YOURS OUT BY ITS ROOTS! DAMNATION! HOW'YA BEEN, YOU OL' SPACE DOG?!!

HMMM ... YOU KNOW? YOU OUGHTTA SHAVE THAT BEARD. IT LOOKS RIDICULOUS.

THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF.

LOOKING AND ACTING LIKE US MORE AND MORE EACH DAY.

HERE - LET ME GET YOU BOTH A DRINK. SO, HOW ARE THE BOYS DOIN'?

THIS WAS GIVEN TO ME ON HEAVY MELDER.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

SO ... WHAT BRINGS YOU TWO BACK HERE?

THAT CAPSULE! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAN WHO HAD IT?

HE WAS KILLED ... BY A NEW KIND OF MACHINE MAN.

I TAKE IT YOU KILLED THE THING THAT KILLED HIM?

A METANOID, YOU MEAN. YEAH, I KNOW ABOUT THEM.

AND HE GAVE YOU THE CAPSULE ...

HEY, AKIRA ... I THINK YOU NEED THIS NOW MORE THAN I DO.

THAT OLD MAN NEVER HURT A SOUL IN HIS LIFE!

DAMN IT TO HELL! HE DIDN'T DESERVE TO GO LIKE THAT!

NOW THIS AREA HERE IS NORMALLY BLANK ON MOST STAR CHARTS ...

... BUT NOT SO ON THIS ONE. INTERESTING .... SOMEBODY'S GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO CHART THIS PART OF THE RIM ....

AH, BUT NOT EVERYTHING'S HERE! NOTICE THIS STAR SYSTEM? THE SIXTH ONE IN THAT SECTOR OF THE RIM? THE DATA ON THE THIRD PLANET IS MISSING. GO AHEAD, LOOK IT UP -- IT ISN'T THERE.

SO, WHAT'S IT'S NAME? WHERE'S THE DATA?

OH, REALLY? PERHAPS WE SHOULD CRACK YOUR HEAD OPEN AND GET IT.

IT'S CALLED SIEGMUND, AND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT IS RIGHT HERE INSIDE MY HEAD.

HA-HA, VERY FUNNY. I'LL JUST ADD IN THE DATA IN MY MIND, AND ... VOILÀ!

THERE'S AN OLD SPACER'S TALE THAT SOUNDS A LOT LIKE A TALE FROM THE NIBELUNG SAGA. I USED TO NOT BELIEVE IT, UNTIL MIIME TOLD ME ONE DAY IT WAS BASED IN FACT. IT HAD TO DO WITH A SPACEGOING DRAGON GUARDING THE WAY TO A FABLED TREASURE.

I WONDER...

SIEGMUND ... NOW WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT NAME? OH, YES -- THE OLD EARTH NIBELUNG SAGA. STRANGE IT SHOULD BE NAMED THAT.

大洞

I WONDER IF THE TREASURE THAT THE SPACE DRAGON IS GUARDING ...

WHAT IF THAT PLANET SOMEHOW POINTS THE WAY TO ANOTHER WORLD? WHAT IF THIS MAP SHOWS THE WAY TO THE RHINEGOLD OF LEGEND?

YOU FORGOT THE PART ABOUT THE OTHER DRAGON.

THE MOON DRAGON. SUPPOSEDLY THE TRANSFORMED WIFE OF FAFNER OF RISENHEIM. SUPPOSED TO BE THE MEANER OF THE TWO.

THE OTHER DRAGON?

I MEAN, IT'S ONE THING TO BE LED BY DESTINY. IT'S ANOTHER TO BE LED BY THE NOSE. WHICH ONE ARE WE?

SOUNDS JUST LIKE A WIFE. BUT WHAT'S ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH US, HARLOCK? WHY HAVE WE BEEN POINTED THIS WAY? WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH THE BOYS?

WELL, WELL! NOW ISN'T THAT ODD?!

IT'S THE GALAXY EXPRESS 999! BUT WHAT'S IT DOING HERE? THIS PLANET IS NOWHERE NEAR ITS NORMAL RUN! WHAT'S GOING ON?

INDEED, DOCTOR OYAMA! WHAT IS THE LEGENDARY THREE-NINE SPACE TRAIN DOING ON METABLOODY? ITS NORMAL STOP ON THE RIM WOULD HAVE BEEN HEAVY MELDER - WHICH, LIKE METABLOODY, IS A JUNCTION AND HUB FOR ALL THE MAJOR SPACE TRADING LANES IN ITS PART OF SPACE ....

BUT LIKE ITS MORE FAMOUS COUNTERPART, METABLOODY ALSO HAS ITS PLACES OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS ... A WORLD OF CONTRASTS, WHERE CAN BE FOUND BOTH LIBERTY AND FREEDOM, AS WELL AS OPPRESSION AND DARKNESS ... AND IT WILL BE HERE THAT THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THE SAGA OF GREAT HARLOCK TAKES PLACE.

The Valkyrie

Ring 24 ; Galaxy Express 999

HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO RECALL BRUNHILDE?

NO, MY LORD ... BUT I AM RECEIVING A FAINT SIGNAL FROM PLANET METABLOODY.

IT SAYS THAT BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS HAVE ARRIVED THERE ... AND SHE DID NOT WANT YOU INFORMED.

WHAT IS THIS?! WHY THERE? WHY GO TO METABLOODY, THAT HORRID LITTLE WORLD, AND NOT TELL ME?

FREYA LOOKS WORN OUT. SHE MUST BE FIGHTING THE BEND IN THE RINGS OF TIME.

AND THE WAY THEY ARE NOW, WE CAN'T SEND A MESSAGE BY ANY NORMAL MEANS.

IT'S POSTIVELY CRAWLING WITH ALL SORTS OF HUMANOID AND METANOID SCUM. WHY WOULD SHE GO THERE? IT MAKES NO SENSE! BRUNHILDE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

TAKE A REST, FREYA. WE'LL NEVER REACH HER THAT WAY.

HMMM ... FREYA, WHO SENT THE MESSAGE TO US ABOUT BRUNHILDE?

IT WAS THE COMMANDER OF THE METANOID BASE ON THAT PLANET, MY LORD - FLINNATABETH.

I SHOULD HAVE DEALT WITH HIM AGES AGO! PERHAPS NOW IS THE TIME TO REPLACE HIM WITH SOMEONE ELSE!!

FLINNATABETH ... AH, YES! THAT WOMANIZING LITTLE SOT! BRUNHILDE MUST HAVE CAUGHT HIM IN THE ACT AND NOW HE SEEKS REVENGE!

SUCH AS, MY LORD?

I KNEW HE WAS A WEAK MAN, BUT I THOUGHT I COULD TURN THAT WEAKNESS TO MY ADVANTAGE. I SEE I WAS MISTAKEN.

I MADE THE SAME MISTAKE SENDING THAT MAN TO GOVERN THERE AS I DID IN SENDING BOLKAZANDA TO EARTH.

OF WHAT USE IS A WHOLE ARMY OF SELF-CENTERED FOLLOWERS? NONE, I TELL YOU -- NONE!!

HOW FEW OF MY SUBORDINATES HAVE COURAGE AND COMPOSURE, AS DO MY FOES!

I WANT YOU TO GO THERE, SABELLA. SERVE AS MY MESSENGER.

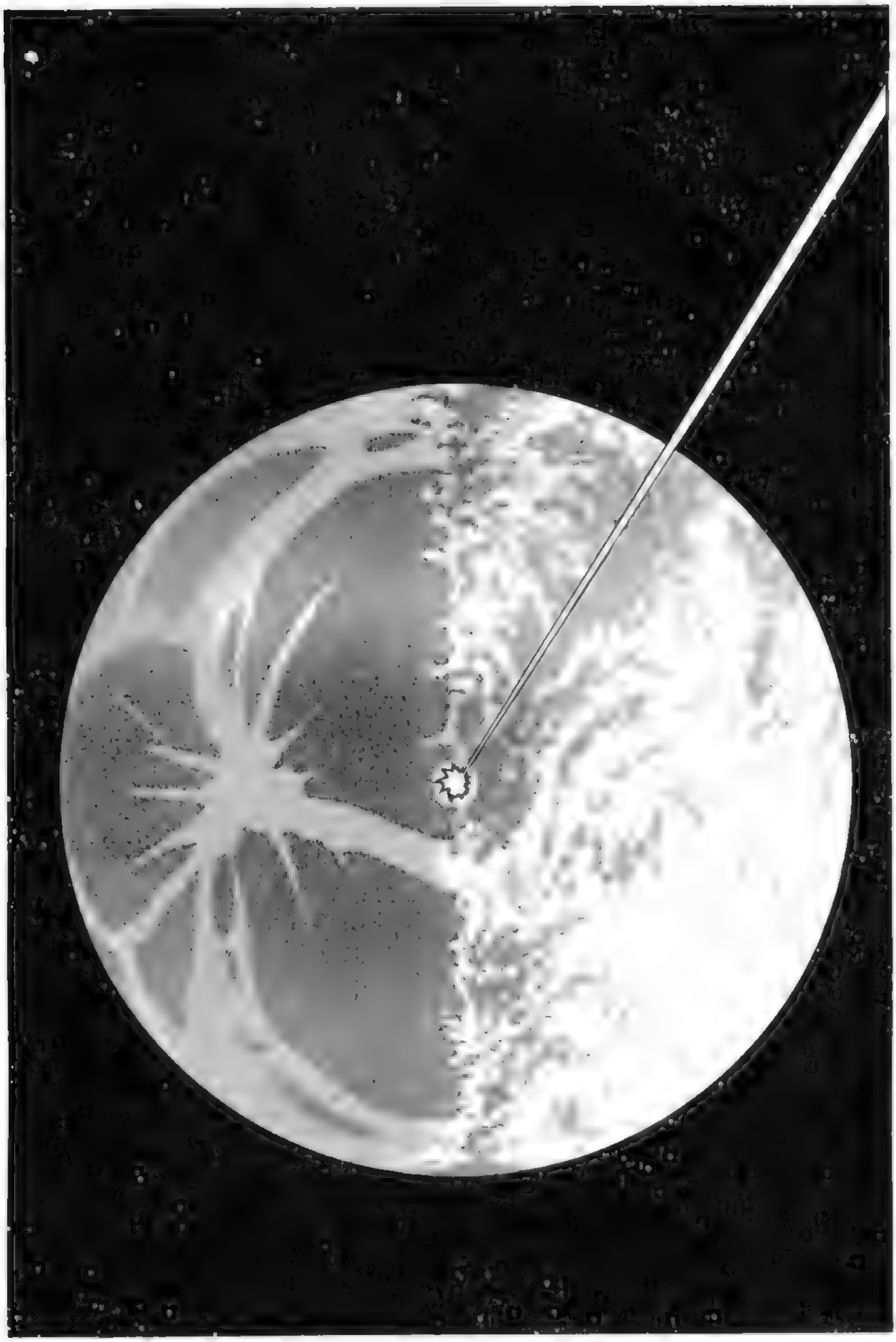
SO WHAT IS THERE TO DO, MY LORD?

INTO A BENT RING OF TIME, MY LORD? BUT WHY NOT? I'VE BEEN CALLED "BENT" MANY A TIME. YOU HAVE A CRUEL SENSE OF IRONY, LORD WOTAN.

TAKE ONE OF THE TIME SHIPS. THE JOURNEY WILL BE DIFFICULT, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE. TELL BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS TO RETURN HERE IMMEDIATELY.

I WILL FIND YOU, BRUNHILDE. I WILL BE BLUNT WITH YOU, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR FEELINGS MAY BE.

I WILL SUCCEED IN MY MISSION, NO MATTER WHAT.



WHAT A CRUMMY LITTLE WORLD! NO WONDER THE MORTALS USE IT FOR SO MANY SECRET MEETINGS! IT'S NOT MUCH USE FOR ANYTHING ELSE!!

ACCORDING TO THE BASE, THE HOTEL WHERE LADY BRUNHILDE IS STAYING IS UP AHEAD ....

THERE IT IS!

PRETEENS? OKAY, MAYBE NOT SO LITTLE ....

YOU SAY TWO LITTLE GIRLS ARRIVED ON THE THREE-NINE?!

IT'S STRANGE THE WAY THE THREE-NINE CAME IN WITH JUST THE TWO OF THEM ON BOARD.

MAYBE THEY'RE ROYAL REFUGEES OR SOMETHING? WHO KNOWS? A SIGN OF THE TIMES, OR EVEN THE END OF THE WORLD?

THIS CHECK-IN COUNTER IS RESERVED FOR METANOIDS ONLY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU LITTLE BRATS?!

OF COURSE WE CAN.

METANOID

SEE THE SIGN?! CAN'T YOU READ?!?

AHH! IT'S THE DIRECTOR!

EVERYBODY SETTLE DOWN! IT'S JUST A CHECK-IN MIXUP!

WHOA, WHOA!

YOU CAN TRY.

DON'T GET SMART WITH ME, LITTLE GIRL! I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF IF YOU DO!!

I THOUGHT RACISM DIED BACK ON OLD EARTH WITH BIGOTS LIKE YOU.

FIRST OF ALL, THESE TWO KIDS DROP IN ON A SPACE TRAIN WITH NO PRIOR RESERVATION, AND THEN THEY TRY TO BOOK A ROOM AT THE COUNTER RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR USE BY WE METANOIDS?

AND YOU WATCH YOURS, LEST I DECIDE TO SHUT IT FOR YOU.

WATCH YOUR MOUTH, BRAT!!

WAIT FOR NOW ...

HARLOCK ...

I JUST DID.

NOBODY TALKS TO ME LIKE THAT!!

YOU ...

YOU!!!

DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF. IS THAT CLEAR?

WHO THE HE--!!

LEAVE THOSE GIRLS ALONE!!!

N-N-NO MA'AM, THAT'S QUITE -ALL RIGHT ...

OR RATHER, IF YOU'RE SO INSISTENT ON STARTING A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE, THEN WHY NOT FIGHT ME? I'M READY ANY TIME YOU ARE.

HER REPUTATION PRECEEDS HER. I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS A METANOID, THOUGH ...

I'VE HEARD OF HER. SHE'S GOOD. REALLY GOOD.

I'D BE A FOOL TO TAKE ON HELLMAZARIA THE MACHINE KNIGHT!

IT WOULD EXPLAIN HER SEEMING INVINCIBILITY.

AS TOUGH AS SHE IS, TOSHIRO, I WOULDN'T WANT TO LAY ODDS ON IT.

HARLOCK, YOU THINK SHE COULD TAKE ON A VALKYRIE?

NO ONE HAS EVER FOUGHT A VALKYRIE AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT ...

BUT IF I HAD TO PICK SOMEONE TO DO IT, THEN I'D PICK HELLMAZARIA.

ARE YOU DEAF OR SOMETHING, LITTLE MAN?!

YES'M! AT ONCE!!

DO IT!!!

BUT MA'AM ...

I SAID REGISTER THEM. NOW.

GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE. I DON'T MIND HELPING THOSE WHO AREN'T AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR THEMSELVES.

THANK YOU, MISS!

MAETEL.

MAY I ASK YOUR NAME, YOUNG ONE?

EMERALDAS.

AND YOU, FIERCE ONE? WHAT ARE YOU CALLED?

PLAYING THE MATCHMAKER ALREADY, YOU DIRTY OLD MAN?

YOU KNOW, THEY'RE ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS OUR BOYS ... MAYBE A BIT YOUNGER.

YES MA'AM.

I TAKE IT YOU TWO ARE SISTERS.

YES MA'AM.

AND YOU JUST GOT OFF OF THAT SPECIAL GALAXY EXPRESS TRAIN THAT DROPPED IN?

A SPECIAL TRIP, FROM OUR HOME PLANET TO EARTH.

AND WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS WORLD?

IT'S NOT JUST ANY SPACE TRAIN, MA'AM. IT'S THE GALAXY EXPRESS 999.

AND FOR THAT YOU NEED A SPECIAL EXPRESS SPACE TRAIN?

THE THREE-NINE?! THE SPECIAL EXPRESS TO ANDROMEDA?! THAT THREE-NINE?!!

THE THREE-NINE ...

FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING, OLD FRIEND. LIKE THOSE TWO. THE YOUNG ONE - THE BLOND. DOESN'T SHE LOOK FAMILIAR?

"CURIOSER AND CURIOSER," AS THE OLD SAW GOES. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THE THREE-NINE BEING PULLED OFF OF THE INFINITE TRACK FOR ANY REASON.

AND WEARING THOSE SAME CLOTHES ... EXCEPT SHE WAS AN ADULT. IT COULD HAVE BEEN HER MOTHER, I GUESS ... BUT STILL ....

THERE'S AN OLD SAYING THAT THE THREE-NINE TRAVELS THROUGH SPACE AND TIME AS IT MAKES ITS YEARLY TRIP. I'D SWEAR I'VE SEEN THAT GIRL ON THERE BEFORE ...

WE KNOW.

BUT WHY HERE? THIS IS QUITE A WAYS OFF OF YOUR ROUTE.

I SEE ...

... AND THAT'S HOW WE WOUND UP HERE. WE'RE IN BOTH THE WRONG PLACE AND TIME.

IT WASN'T LONG AFTER WE HAD BOARDED THE THREE-NINE. SOMETHING TWISTED SPACE AND TIME ITSELF ...

THE ENGINE TOLD US THAT THE CENTER OF THE DISTORTION THAT PULLED US OFF COURSE IS SOMEWHERE ON THIS PLANET.

IT MUST HAVE. HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPLAIN OUR BEING HERE?

THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE. ARE YOU SAYING THAT SOMETHING HAS TWISTED THE RING OF TIME?

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US.

YOU HAVE ME THERE. WELL, MAETEL AND EMERALDAS, DUTY CALLS. I MUST GO.

... AND WE HOPE YOU MEET OUR ADULT SELVES SOMEDAY.*

WE WON'T FORGET YOUR KINDNESS ...

(*) - AND THEY DID, IN GALAXY EXPRESS 999 ETERNAL FANTASY.

AND DR. OYAMA!

GREAT HARLOCK!

THAT WAS NICE OF YOU TO HELP THOSE TWO YOUNG WOMEN.

GOOD LUCK!

ABOUT TO TURN INTO YOUNG MEN ...

... WITH ALL THE LITTLE PROBLEMS THEREOF!

THIS IS INDEED A PLEASURE! IT'S BEEN SO LONG .... HOW ARE THE BOYS?

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A DEADLY ENEMY, BUT AN HONORABLE ONE, AND I RESPECT THAT. IF ONLY WE WERE ON THE SAME SIDE ....

I'M ACTUALLY GLAD WE MET AGAIN HERE, AND NOT OUT THERE, WHERE WE'D HAVE TO FIGHT EACH OTHER TO THE DEATH ....

... BECAUSE I WON'T SHOW THEM ANY MORE MERCY THAN I'VE SHOWN YOU ON THE BATTLEFIELD, ONCE THEY COME OF AGE AND THEIR TIME TO FIGHT COMES.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, THOSE BOYS OF YOURS BETTER GROW UP TO BE JUST LIKE YOU BOTH ...

PLEASE! REMAIN SEATED, FAITHFUL HELLMAZARIA. MAY I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF JOINING YOU AND YOUR GUESTS?

I WISH TO VISIT WITH THESE MEN I'VE BEEN SENT TO KILL ... AND GREAT HARLOCK IN PARTICULAR.

SO ... WHY ARE YOU HERE-- WAIT! LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE COMPANY, MY LADY BRUNHILDE?!

SO MUCH FOR MY APPETITE.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT UNSPOKEN RULES REGARDING A PORT OF FREE TRADE IN THE SEA OF STARS IS THAT ALL ENEMIES MUST SET ASIDE THEIR CONFLICTS FOR AS LONG AS THEY ARE IN PORT. THEY MAY FIGHT RIGHT UP TO THE DOCKS, AND RESUME SHOOTING THE MOMENT THEY LEAVE, BUT NO FIGHTING IS TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE PORT. THEY ARE TO BE RESPECTFUL TO EACH OTHER ... AND IF THEY CANNOT BE AT LEAST CIVIL, THEN THEY ARE TO LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE WHILE IN PORT.

TWO GREAT OPPONENTS HAVE COME TOGETHER IN THE FREE PORT OF METABLOODY: GREAT HARLOCK AND BRUNHILDE THE VALKYRIE. THIS SHOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED ... BUT NOW IT IS DESTINY.

The Valkyrie

Ring 25 ; The Meeting

SOMEPLACE CALLED "THE VALLEY OF THE WITCH."

WHAT'S THAT? WHERE DID YOU SAY OUR BOYS WENT?

IT'S SUPPOSEDLY HAUNTED.

YEAH, I GUESS SO. THEY'RE PRETTY GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF THEMSELVES.

WELL, I GUESS IT CAN DO NO HARM, AND IT KEEPS THEM OUT OF OUR HAIR. JUST LIKE THE KIND OF THING WE'D PULL AT THEIR AGE, EH?

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS BUSINESS, I WOULDN'T MIND GOING THERE MYSELF.

IF ANYTHING, IT'S MADE THEM EVEN MORE LIKE US. WE'RE THE ONLY ROLE MODEL THEY'VE EVER HAD. IT'S SOMETHING WE'D BOTH DO, SO ....

THE FACT THAT BOTH OF THEM LOST THEIR MOTHERS AT A YOUNG AGE HASN'T HELPED MATTERS ANY, YOU KNOW.

I JUST WONDER WHAT MADE THEM WANT TO GO THERE ....

SO THIS IS WHAT THE LOCALS CALL "THE SHIP OF THE WITCH!"

ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN, HARLOCK -- THIS ISN'T HUMAN TECHONOLOGY. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. HAVE YOU?

NO .... BUT IT'S SURE GOT THE LOCALS STIRRED UP. HOW OLD DID THEY CLAIM THIS THING WAS?

WHAT'S IT DOING ON A 300-YEAR-OLD ALIEN STARSHIP OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?

HEY, LOOK AT THIS! IT'S DAD'S EMBLEM!! THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES!!

MY GUESS WOULD BE 200-300 YEARS, JUDGING FROM ALL OF THE MOSS.

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

IF I SAID THE DOOR WAS DNA-LOCKED, WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME? YEAH, IT'S CRAZY, BUT TRUE. C'MON, LET'S GO EXPLORE.

NOW WHY DID IT NOT OPEN BEFORE NOW?

HEY, CHECK THIS OUT! IT'S GOT POWER-- HEY!! THIS PANEL!!!!

MAYBE THE QUESTION IS, "WHY?"

HARLOCK! THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WARP ENGINE I'VE EVER SEEN! AND IT'S IN TOP-NOTCH SHAPE!!

ARE YOU SAYING THIS SHIP COULD FLY?!

I DON'T SEE WHY NOT! I MEAN ... WELL, THIS IS JUST INCREDIBLE!

IT'S A LOT LIKE THE WARP DRIVE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MAKE!

AS ADVANCED AS THIS SHIP IS, I DON'T SEE ANYTHING YET I CAN'T HANDLE.

JUST A FEW TWEAKS HERE AND THERE, AND SHE COULD TAKE OFF!

NOW THAT I'D LIKE TO SEE!

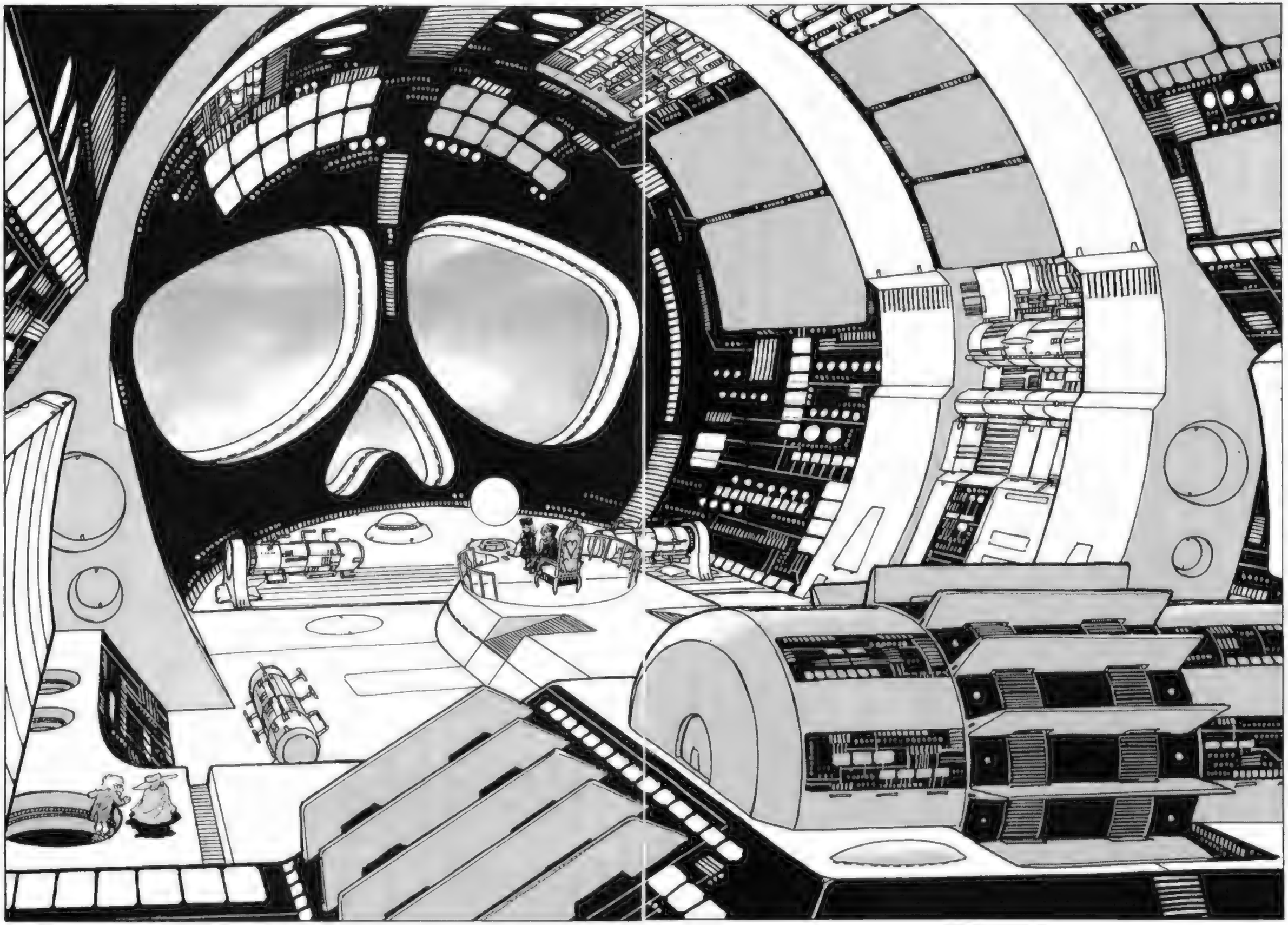
WHO ARE YOU?!

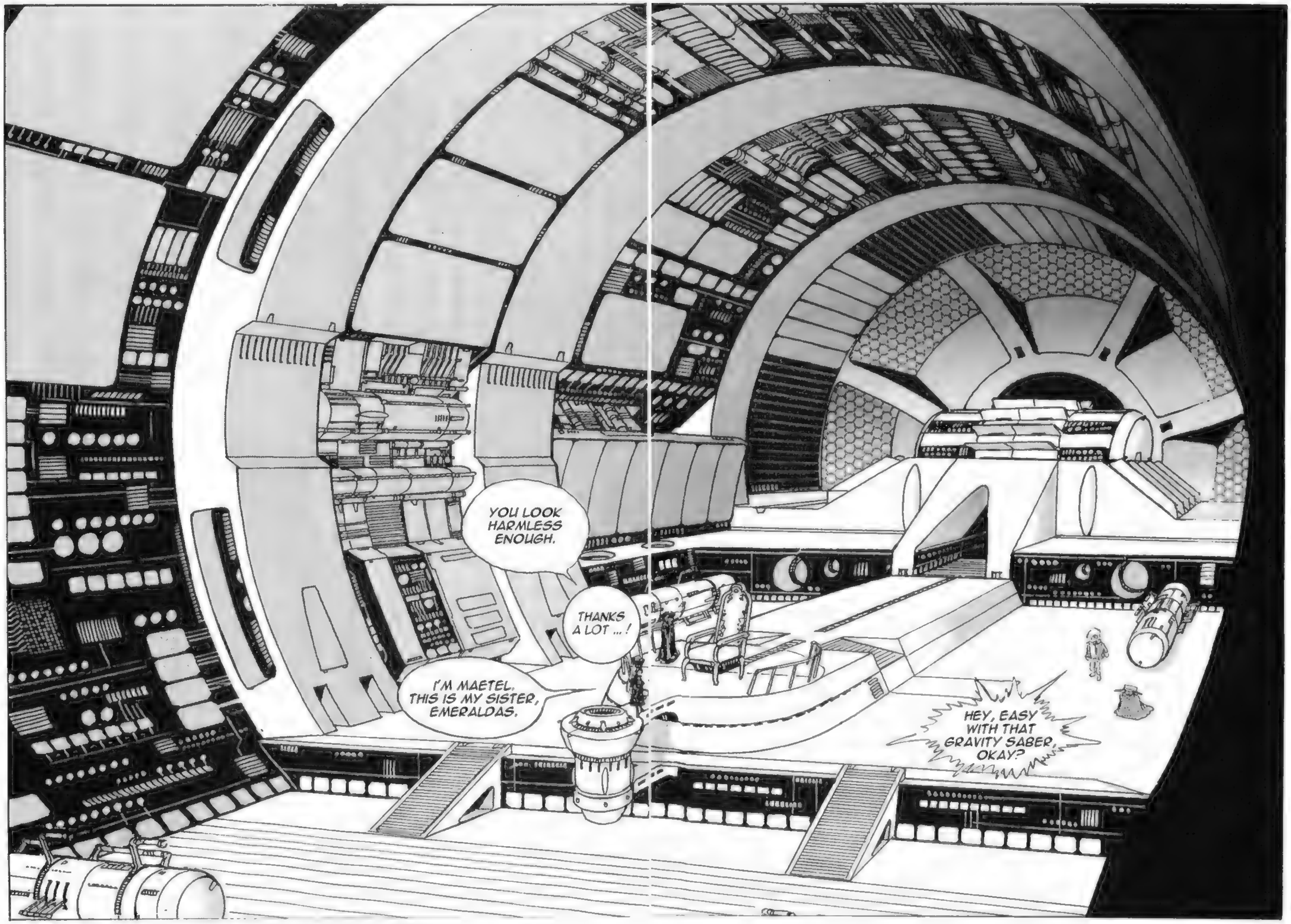
NICE AND EASY, BOYS. NO SUDDEN MOVES.

WE'RE NOT ARMED.

TOCHIRO, WAIT! YOU NEED TO BE CARE--

WELL THEN, AFTER ME! I'M GUESSING THE SHIP'S BRIDGE IS UP THIS WAY. RACE YOU THERE, HARLOCK!




YOU LOOK HARMLESS ENOUGH.
THANKS A LOT ... !
I'M MAETEL. THIS IS MY SISTER, EMERALDAS.
HEY, EASY WITH THAT GRAVITY SABER, OKAY?

IT SAID, "COME TO THE SHIP IN THE VALLEY OF THE WITCH." ONCE WE GOT HERE, ALL I DID WAS TOUCH IT, AND IT LET US BOTH IN.

I WAS TAKING A NAP IN OUR ROOM AT THE HOTEL, WHEN A VOICE SPOKE TO ME IN MY DREAMS.

WE'VE NEVER MET ... BUT THIS SHIP KNOWS US!

THE DNA LOCK!

YES ... HOW ODD. BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?

AND I'M PHANTOM F. HARLOCK. NINETY-NINTH TO BEAR THE NAME.

I'M TOCHIRO OYAMA ...

IT'S SOMETHING TOCHIRO AND I HAVE TALKED ABOUT FOR A LONG TIME. JUST LIKE HIS FATHER BUILT A SHIP FOR MY FATHER, TOCHIRO IS GOING TO BUILD A SHIP FOR ME WHEN WE GET OLDER AND ARE ON OUR OWN.

THAT'S HIM ... ALTHOUGH SOMEDAY, I'M GOING TO HAVE MY OWN SHIP.

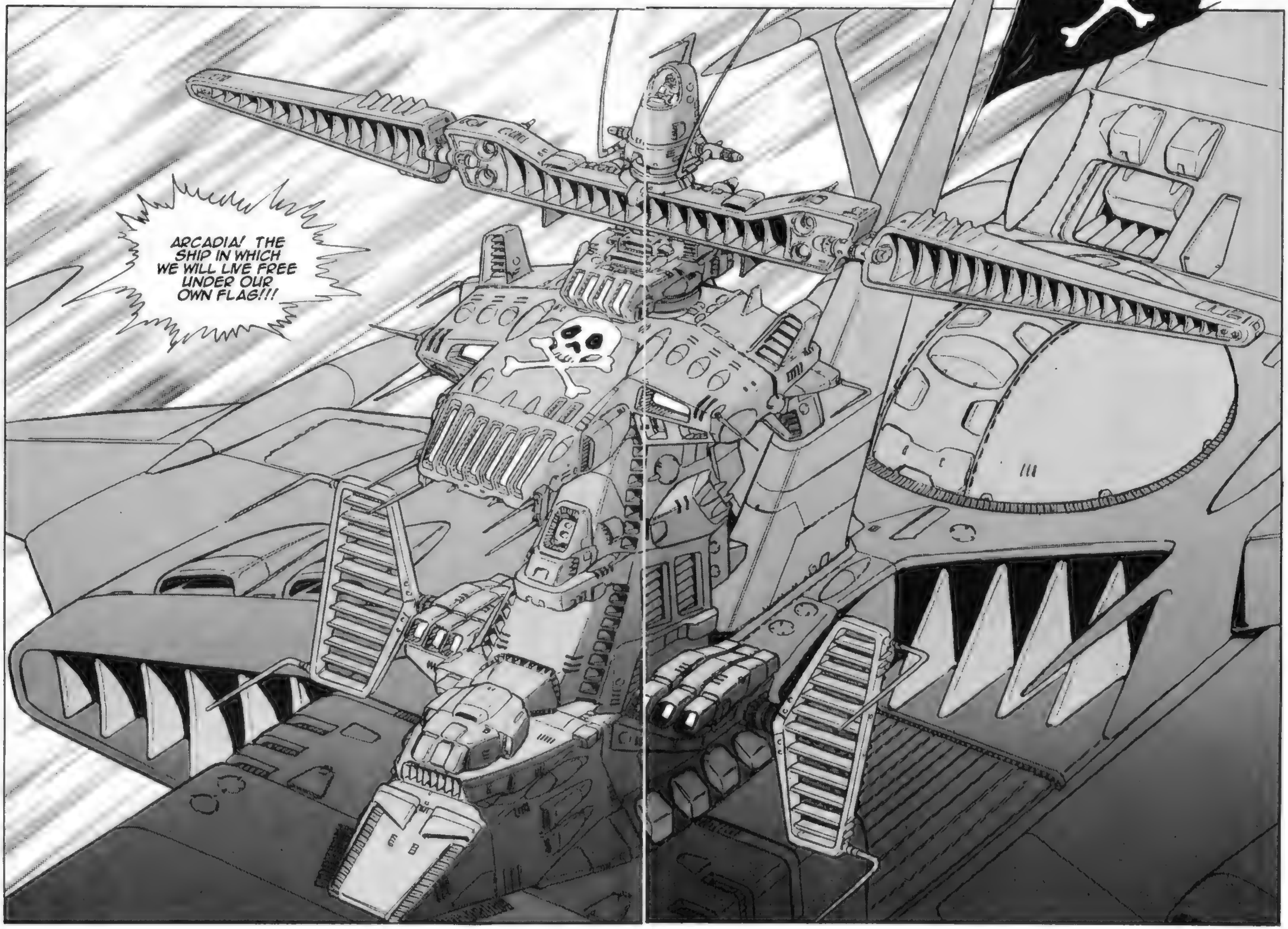
YOU FATHER IS CAPTAIN OF THE DEATH SHADOW! WE MET HIM AT THE HOTEL.

OH, NO ... I, UH, UHM ... I REALLY AM GOING TO BUILD A SHIP FOR YOUNG HARLOCK HERE ... AHM, AH, UHMMM ... AND I GOING TO CALL IT THE ARCADIA.

WHO - HIM?! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING EXCEPT DROOL.

ARCADIA ... THAT WAS THE ANCIENT GREEK NAME FOR THE IDEAL PARADISE.

TOCHIRO SAYS IT'S A PERFECT NAME FOR A PERFECT SHIP -- WHICH IS WHAT HE INTENDS IT TO BE.


ARCADIA! THE SHIP IN WHICH WE WILL LIVE FREE UNDER OUR OWN FLAG!!!

WE'VE BEEN KNOCKED OUT OF TIME.

I'M CURIOUS, MAETEL. WHY DID YOU TWO COME TO THIS PLANET? YOU SEEM KINDA OUT OF PLACE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

WOW ... FOR REAL?!!

EMERALDAS AND I WERE RIDING THE GALAXY EXPRESS 999 WHEN SOMETHING TOOK US AND YANKED US THROUGH THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM. WE'RE SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS INTO OUR OWN FUTURE, WITH NO IDEA HOW IT HAPPENED.

I AM THE QUEEN EMERALDAS, AND I AM HERE TO SERVE THE YOUNG ONE WITH RED HAIR.

I RECOGNIZE ALL FOUR OF YOU, FOR ALL OF YOU HAVE WALKED MY DECKS IN A DIFFERENT TIME AND PLACE.

AS HAVE I, YOUNG ONES ... AS HAVE I, THIS SHIP IN WHICH YOU NOW STAND.

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SHARES MY NAME! THIS SHIP WAS MADE FOR YOU!!

I AM THE QUEEN EMERALDAS!

... MY DESTINY WILL BE TO KEEP RIDING THE GALAXY EXPRESS 999.

I, THIS VESSEL, AND YOU ...

IT SEEMS THAT EACH OF US WILL HAVE OUR OWN SHIP. THEM, THEIR ARCADIA ...

YEAH ... AND ALL OF THIS STARTED WHEN THE VALKYRIES SHOWED UP, SAYING THEY HAD A SACRED MISSION TO KILL OUR FATHERS.

MY APOLOGIES. IT SEEMS THAT FATE MEANT US TO MEET IN THIS PLACE. OUR DESTINIES APPEAR TO BE LINKED SOMEHOW.

INTERESTING ... SO THAT'S WHY THE VALKYRIES CAME HERE ....

ALL FOUR OF THOSE KIDS ARE GOING TO BE DANGEROUS WHEN THEY GROW UP ... IF THEY GROW UP ....

THE RING OF TIME THAT HAS BEEN BENT CONTINUES TO TWIST AND FLEX AS IT STRIVES TO RIGHT ITSELF, AND ALL EVENTS WITHIN ARE AFFECTED. HISTORY ITSELF AS THOSE WITHIN ONCE KNEW IT, OR WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT, IS BEING REWRITTEN, AND A NEW PATH IS BEING ESTABLISHED FOR THOSE THAT MUST WALK ITS WAYS. AMONG THOSE ON THAT PATH ARE FOUR YOUTHS - TWO WHOSE FUTURES HAVE BEEN ALTERED BY WOTAN'S VINDICTIVENESS, AND TWO WHO WERE PULLED OUT OF THEIR PROPER PLACE IN TIME AS THE RING OF TIME STRIVES TO RESET ITSELF. THE HAND OF FATE MOVES IN STRANGE WAYS, AS DESTINIES ARE REWOVEN WITHIN THIS BENT RING OF TIME.

The Valkyrie

Ring 26 ; The Valley of the Witch

SO HOW DID THEY FIND OUT ABOUT THE VALLEY OF THE WITCH?

I TOLD THEM.

YOU DID, MIIMÉ?!

BECAUSE IT IS THE FIRST STOP ON THE ROAD TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DESTINIES.

THEY NEEDED TO GO THERE ...

YES, I DID.

THEY NEEDED SOMETHING TO DO THEMSELVES ... SOMETHING AWAY FROM US ... "GROWN-UPS?"

BESIDES ... BOREDOM IS ONE OF THE WORST ENEMIES OF YOUTH.

THANK YOU, BRUNHILDE ....

CARE FOR ANOTHER DRINK, MIIME?

YOUR FATHER WOTAN'S WILLFUL ARROGANCE HAS FORCED THE NIBELUNGEN TO THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF THE UNIVERSE. IT IS NOT A FIT PLACE FOR ANYONE TO LIVE.

IT IS INDEED A SHAME THAT THE WILL OF VALHALLA HAS FORCED US TO BE ENEMIES ... YOUR PEOPLE AND MINE ...

... BY AIDING GREAT HARLOCK IN HIS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. HIS IS A WORTHY ENOUGH CAUSE FOR ME TO SERVE HIM.

YES, LET'S DO THAT. THEY ROSE UP AS ANY SLAVE WOULD DO AGAINST AN UNJUST MASTER. I PLAYED MY PART THEN, EVEN AS I DO NOW ...

BECAUSE THEY DEFIED HIS WILL, MIIME. LET'S KEEP OUR FACTS STRAIGHT.

WOULD IT SURPRISE YOU TO LEARN, GREAT HARLOCK, THAT I DO NOT AGREE WITH MY FATHER IN THIS TASK?

IT WOULD INDEED. GO ON.

YES. I DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM ... OR THE BOYS, EITHER.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, BRUNHILDE? THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO KILL GREAT HARLOCK? IS THAT IT?

THERE IS NO HONOR IN THIS MISSION. I AM NOT AN ASSASSIN. I AM A WARRIOR. MY FATHER DOES NOT REALIZE THAT. EVEN NOW, HE COMMANDS ME TO COMPLETE MY TASK ....

ONLY BY THIS CAN YOU SAVE VALHALLA, MY DAUGHTER!! DO WHATEVER YOU MUST!!!!

KILL GREAT HARLOCK!!! KILL DOCTOR OYAMA!!! KILL THOSE TWO BOYS!!!

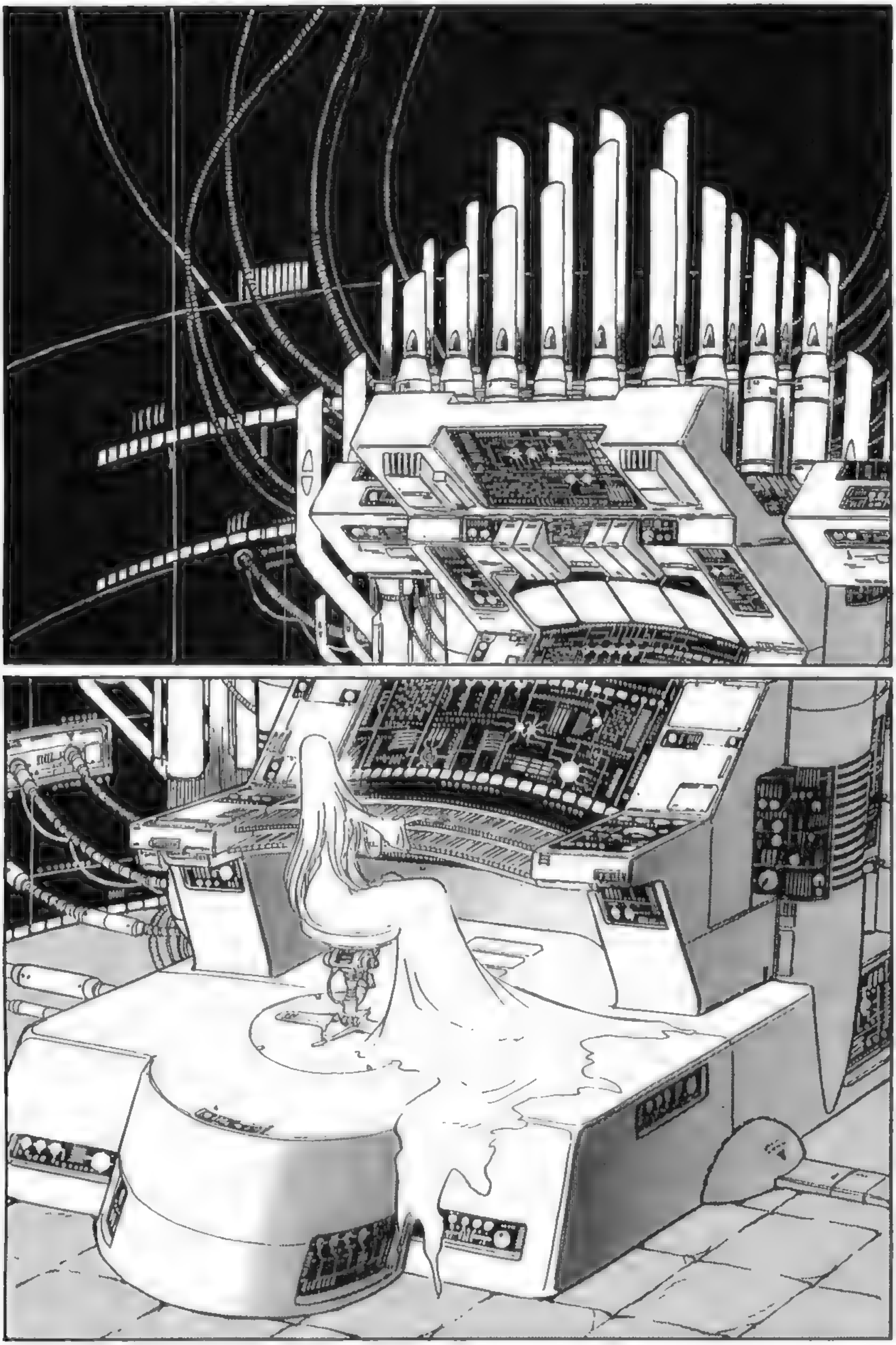
BRUNHILDE?! IS THAT YOU?! HAVE YOU KILLED THEM YET?! HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR MISSION?! IS VALHALLA SAFE?!?!

THAT'S LORD WOTAN ...

EVEN SO ...

MY LINK TO VALHALLA ... MY ONLY LINK, NOW THAT THIS RING OF TIME IS BENT.

FATHER? THIS IS BRUNHILDE.



HAVE YOU SUCCEEDED, BRUNHILDE? ARE THEY DEAD? ALL OF THEM?!

BRUNHILDE?! I'M GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU! RECEPTION FROM THE BENT RING IS GETTING WORSE!!!

THE CHANNEL IS OPEN, MY LORD, BUT SHE DOES NOT ANSWER.

BRUNHILDE!!!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. WE STILL HAVE COMMUNICATION FOR NOW.

STILL NO ANSWER, MY LORD.

TRY TO RAISE SABELLA.

YES, MY LORD.

AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?

MY FATHER HAS STRUGGLED WITH THE NORNS EVER SINCE THE GODS CAME INTO EXISTENCE. NOW HE WANTS ME AND MY SISTERS TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK FOR HIM!

PERHAPS NOT. YOUR QUARREL WITH VALHALLA IS AN OLD ONE. MINE HAS JUST STARTED.

WHAT CAN I SAY? EVEN THE GODS HAVE A SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG -- PROVIDED THEY LISTEN TO IT.

I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT THE DAUGHTER HAS A BETTER SENSE OF JUSTICE THAN THE FATHER.

I'VE WATCHED YOU LONG FROM AFAR ... AND YOU'VE TAUGHT ME A THING OR TWO ABOUT JUSTICE.

THAT DESTINY HAS ALREADY BEEN AFFECTED BY MY PRESENCE HERE ... BUT AT LEAST, FROM NOW ON, IT WILL BE ONLY FOR GOOD, I HOPE.

IF WERE TO DO THIS THING, THEN TWO GOOD MEN AND TWO GOOD BOYS WOULD DIE ... AND THE FOUR OF YOU HAVE SPECIAL DESTINIES IN THIS RING OF TIME.

THAT'S GOOD. I'D MUCH PREFER YOU AS A FRIEND THAN AN ENEMY. I'M GLAD IT WORKED OUT THIS WAY.

TO BE HONEST, GREAT HARLOCK, I COULDN'T KILL YOU IF I WANTED TO. THAT'S THE TRUTH.

A TOAST TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER! HEAR, HEAR!!

WELCOME, FELLOW OUTCAST!

TO OUR NEW FUTURES!!!

TO THE NEW FUTURES THAT LAY BEFORE US ALL!!!

I'LL FIND OUT.

BY THE WAY, WHERE DID HELLMAZARIA GO? ANYONE SEE WHERE?

AWW, CRAP!!

THE VALLEY OF THE WITCH, SIR.

DID SHE SAY WHERE SHE WAS GOING?

SHE TOOK A RENTAL HOVERCAR AND LEFT, SIR.

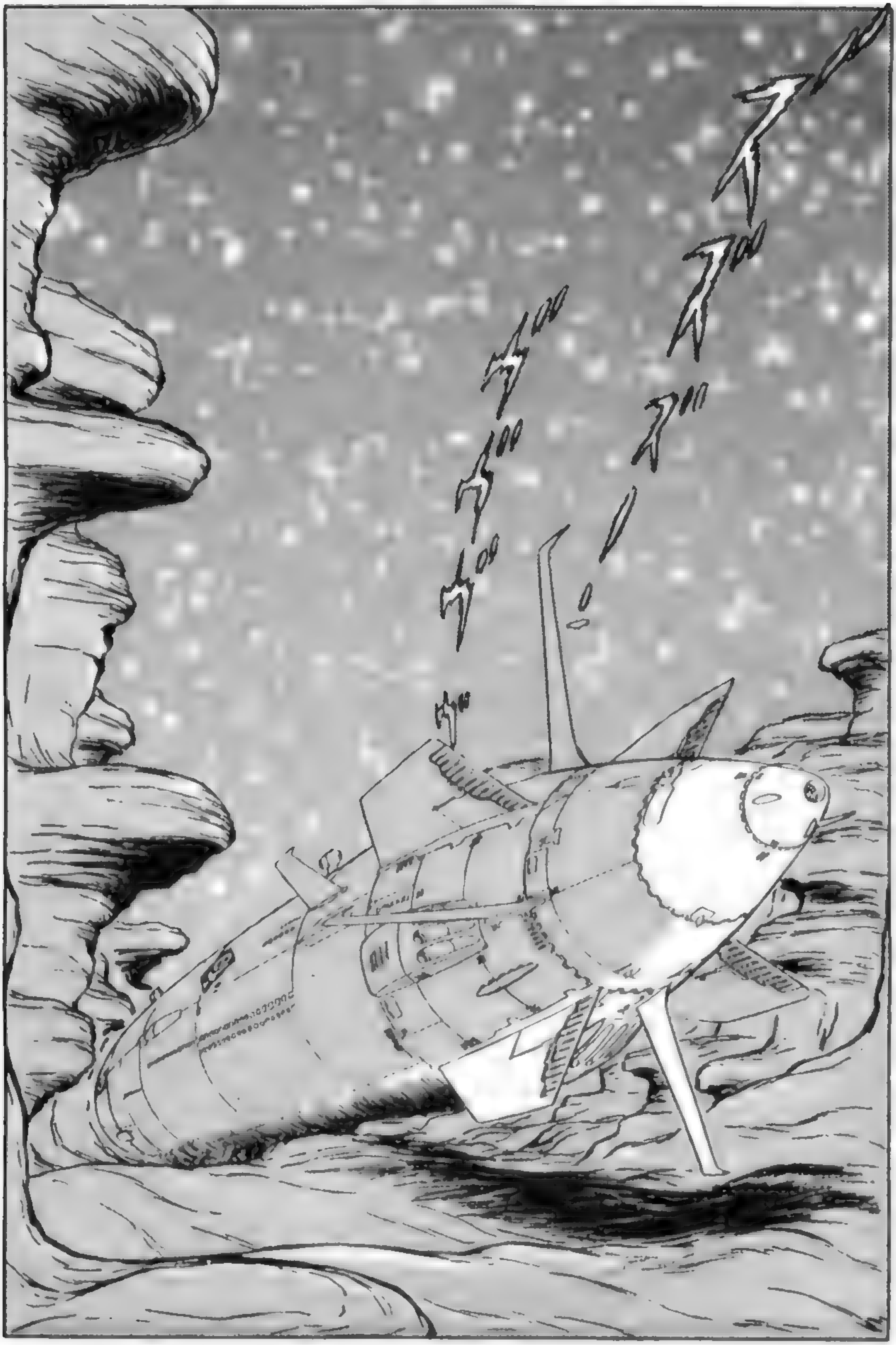
I THINK EVEN SHE WILL FIND MORE THAN SHE MIGHT BARGAIN FOR OUT THERE.

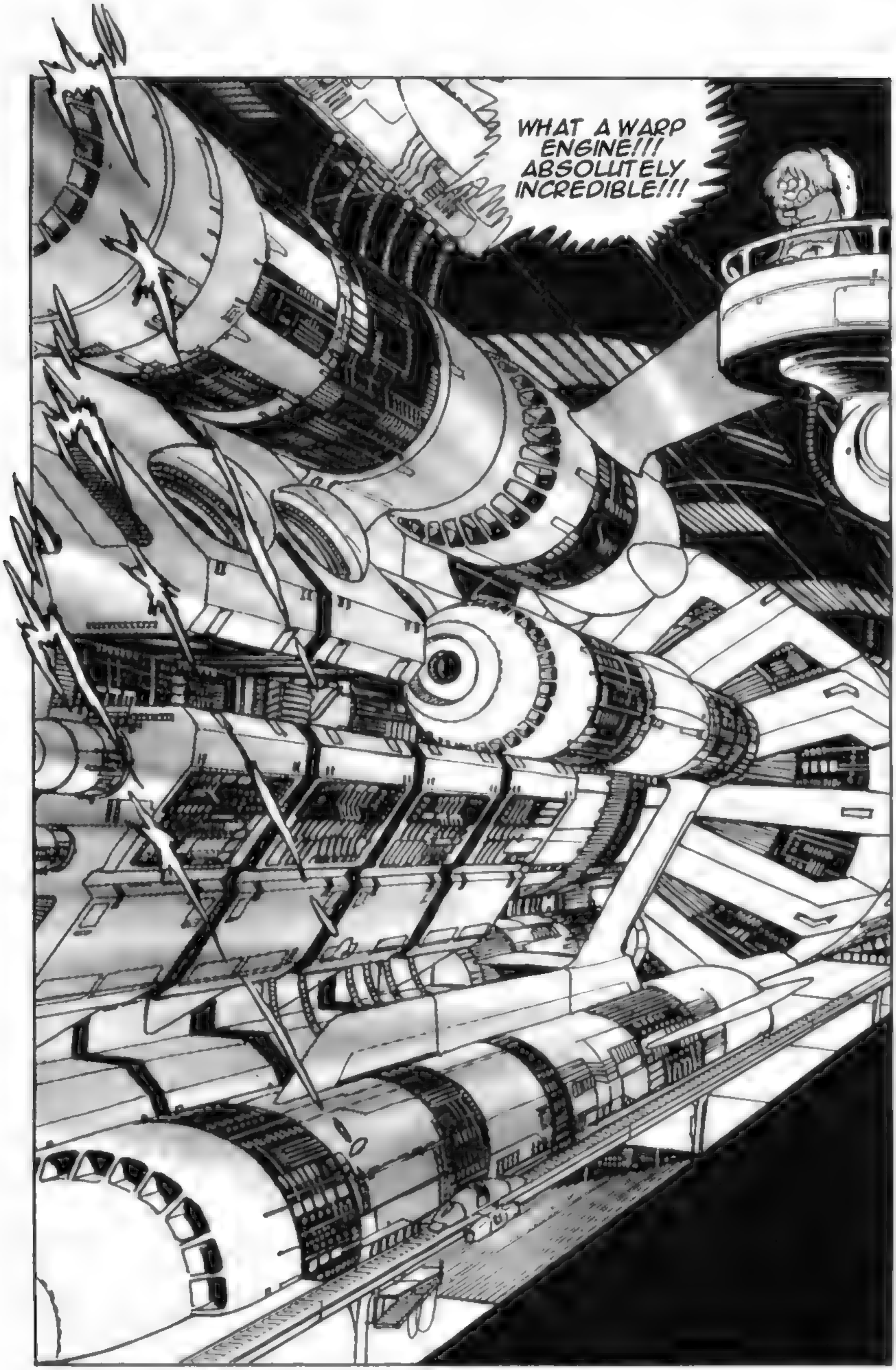
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S UP TO?

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON OUT THERE? SOME KIND OF PARTY OR SOMETHING?!?

THOSE TWO GIRLS ARE OUT THERE TOO?!?!

THE SHIP OF LEGEND ... IT MUST BE. MIIME?
I DIDN'T KNOW THE GIRLS HAD GONE THERE, TOO, BUT IT FITS. YES ... THE RED EMERALD ....
... PROPHECY SAID ONLY IT COULD AWAKEN THE SHIP IN THE VALLEY OF THE WITCH ... AND THE ELDER SISTER HAD RED HAIR.
ALL THE TREASURE SEEKERS THOUGHT IT WAS A REAL GEM ... NOT A LIVING ONE ....




WHAT A WARP ENGINE!!! ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!!!

SOMEHOW I KNEW YOUR FRIEND COULD GET IT UP AND RUNNING.

THAT'S INCREDIBLE, TOCHIRO. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT. YOU KNOW THE LEGEND SAYS IT WAS ABANDONED HERE BECAUSE NO ONE KNEW HOW TO REPAIR IT.

I TOLD YOU I COULD GET THIS THING GOING!!!

"IT TAKES ONE LEGEND TO MOVE ANOTHER." WELL, I'M NOT A LEGEND YET ... BUT I WILL BE. SOMEDAY.

WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, EMERALDAS ...

EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I WORKED WITH MY FATHER IN HIS SHOP -- WORKING ON ALL KINDS OF MACHINES, AND STAR DRIVES, AND WEAPON SYSTEMS, AND SO ON, AND SO ON.

... I'VE EVEN PLAYED AROUND WITH OLD-STYLE STEAM-AND-GEAR TECHNOLOGY! YOU NAME IT, I'VE DONE IT!

YOU NAME IT! ANALOG, DIGITAL, SOLID-STATE, INTEGRATED CIRCUITS, PHOTON WAFERS ...

I NEED A REAL REPAIR DOCK TO DO A BETTER JOB.

IT'LL FLY, I PROMISE YOU, BUT NOT AT FULL POWER.

OOHHH, THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

PERHAPS, ONE DAY, ALL OF US WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL THE SEA OF STARS ... AND WE'LL MEET AGAIN THEN.

UH-HUH.

MY SISTER EMERALDAS SEEMS TO GET ALONG WELL WITH YOUR FRIEND TOCHIRO.

THE THREAD OF OUR FATES RUNS TOGETHER, AND TOGETHER WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR DREAM ... OUR ARCADIA!

THAT WE MOST CERTAINLY WILL, MAETEL. I BELIEVE MY DESTINY IS OUT THERE ... AND SO IS TOCHIRO'S.

INDEED ....

WHAT WAS IT THEY SAID? "FAR INTO OUR FUTURE?" HOW FAR, I WONDER? THIS SHIP'S BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES. I WONDER ....

THOSE GIRLS ... IT'S ALMOST AS IF THIS SHIP PULLED THEM HERE FROM WHEREVER IT WAS THEY WERE BEFORE.

THOSE TWO YOUNG BOYS AND YOUNG GIRLS ... IT'S ALMOST AS IF THEY WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER.

FATE HAS DECREED THAT CERTAIN EVENTS ARE FIXED POINTS IN TIME AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED. THE TIME AND PLACE MAY CHANGE, BUT THE EVENT ITSELF WILL ALWAYS TAKE PLACE. ONCE FATE HAS MADE ITS CHOICE, THEN NOT EVEN THE GODS CAN BEND OR SWAY IT. SUCH EVENTS FIGURE GREATLY IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY, FOR THE HAND OF FATE GOVERNS ALL THINGS.

WOTAN'S FAILURE TO BEND A RING OF TIME TO HIS WILL HAS CAUSED THAT RING TO RESHAPE ITSELF, REARRANGING AND RESORTING TIMES AND PLACES SO THAT PREDESTINED EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACES AS FATE HAS DECREED. SUCH AN EVENT HAS OCCURRED ... AND THE HAND OF FATE MOVES ON ....

FREYA! GET IN TOUCH WITH SABELLA!! I'VE GOT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH BRUNHILDE!! SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH MY GIRL!!!

YOU SAY THAT BRUNHILDE HAS SMASHED HER COMMUNICATOR? THAT I CAN'T REACH HER NOW NO MATTER WHAT?!?

I CANNOT CONTACT SABELLA, MY LORD. THE ORGAN HAS REACHED ITS LIMITS! THE RING IS TOO BENT!!!

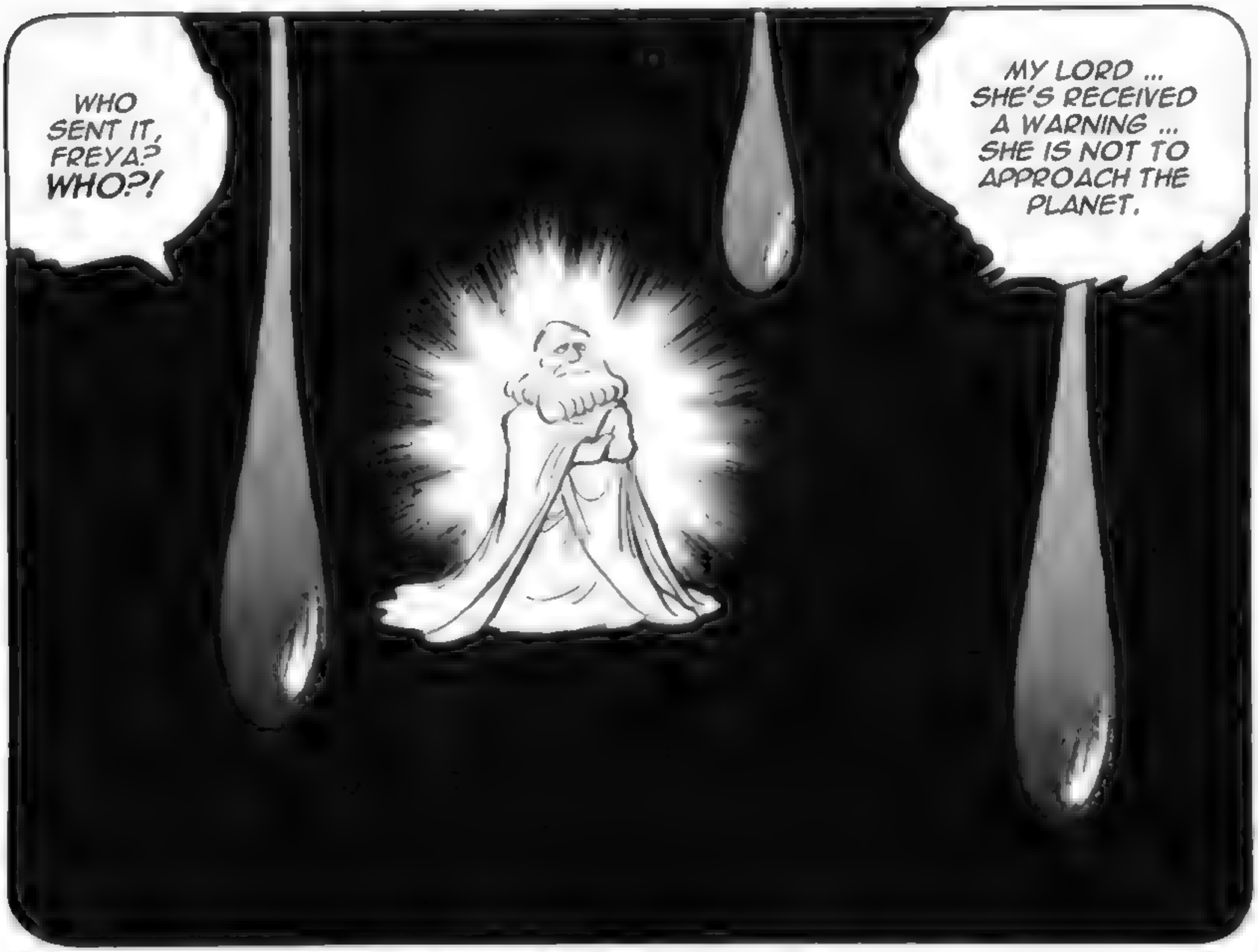
The Valkyrie

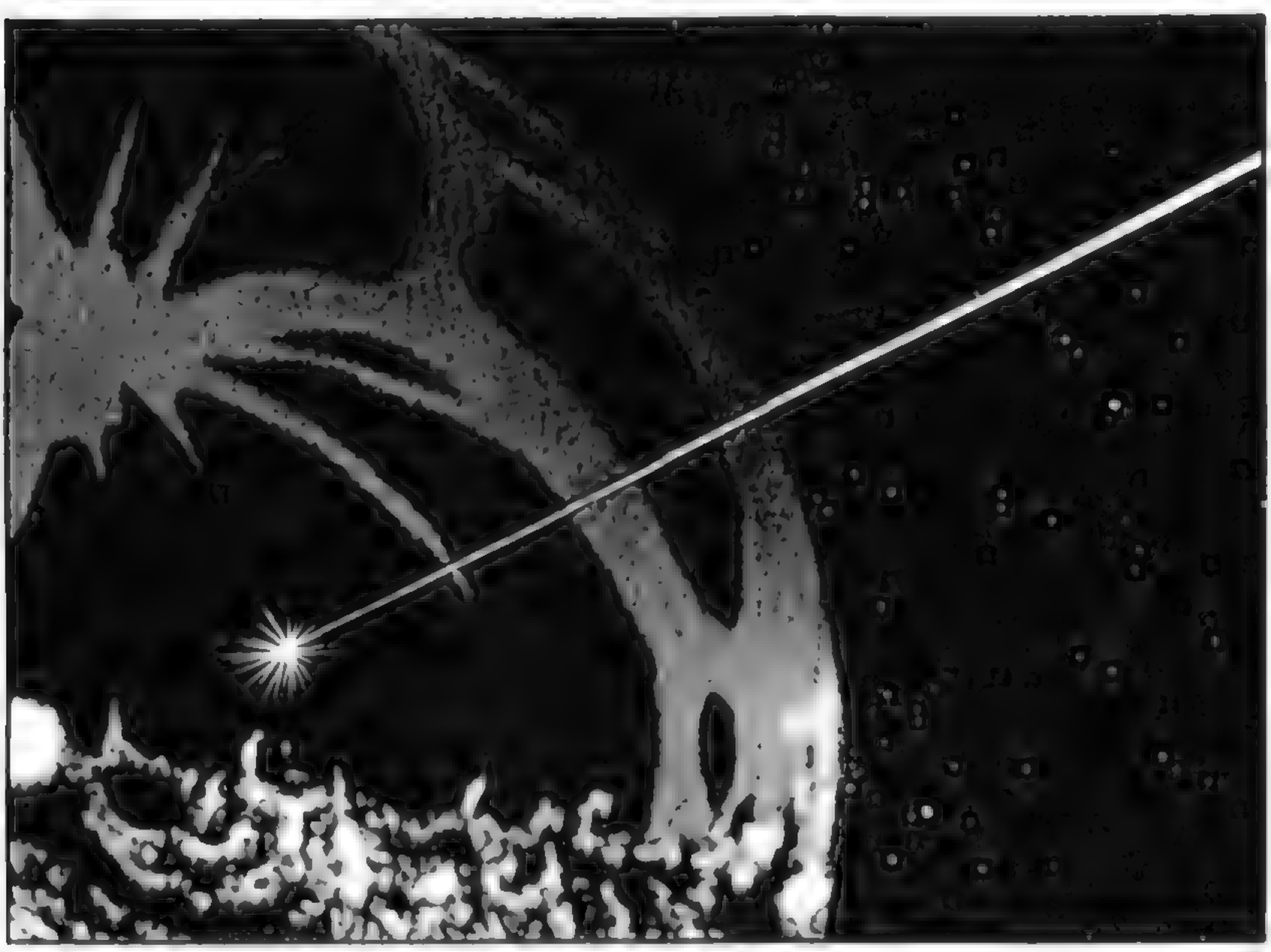
Ring 27 : The *Queen Emeraldas*

MY LORD ... A VERY FAINT SIGNAL ... IT IS SABELLA.

SHE IS ON LANDING APPROACH TO PLANET METABLOODY.

I STILL CANNOT CONTACT HER, MY LORD, WE CAN RECEIVE, BUT NOT SEND. THE RING IS TOO BENT.


WHO SENT IT, FREYA? WHO?!
MY LORD ... SHE'S RECEIVED A WARNING ... SHE IS NOT TO APPROACH THE PLANET.



THE MESSAGE IS IN AN OLD LANGUAGE, SIR -- THE TONGUE OF MOSGALUT, FROM THE FAR REACHES OF TIME ...

WHAT'S THAT?!

IT CLAIMS TO BE COMING FROM THE SHIP QUEEN EMERALDAS. ARE YOU RECEIVING ME, MY LORD?

AHHH ... SO THAT'S WHERE IT FINALLY WOUND UP.

THE QUEEN EMERALDAS?

"... THEN YOUR SOUL WILL BURN IN HELL FOR ALL ETERNITY."

THE MESSAGE HAS CHANGED, MY LORD. "IF YOU DO NOT DESIST IN YOUR APPROACH ..."

"PRECEEDED VALHALLA?" COMPUTER, ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS SHIP MAY BE OLDER THAN THE GODS?! THAT CAN'T BE!!

CHECKING ... THE LANGUAGE IS THAT OF THE MOSGALUT, WHOSE CULTURE PRECEEDED THAT OF VALHALLA BY --

FREYA, WE'VE SOMEHOW GOT TO COMMUNICATE WITH HER! THAT SHIP MUST BE MISLEADING HER! I KNOW IT!!

IT'S TRYING TO TRICK HER BY USING THE ANCIENT TONGUE!!!

OLDER THAN THE GODS?! SABELLA! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!!

I AM POSITIVE, SABELLA. PLANET-FALL IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.

ARE YOU SURE, COMPUTER?

I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE FOR DIRE WARNINGS.

COMPUTER, I WANT YOU TO LOCK ON AND LOCATE THE SOURCE OF THAT SIGNAL.

SABELLA ...

I HAVE DECIDED TO IGNORE THE WARNING AND PURSUE THE SIGNAL TO ITS SOURCE--

MY LORD WOTAN, I DO NOT KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, BUT I AM HOPING THAT YOU DO ....

DON'T TANGLE WITH THAT SHIP! IT CAN AND WILL KILL YOU IF YOU TRY!! SABELLA!!!

NO! SABELLA, NO!!!

... AND SEE WHAT THIS IS THAT WOULD DEFY YOUR WILL, MY LORD. OUT.

"THEN PREPARE TO ROT IN HELL!" WHAT A TERRIBLE VOICE!

MY LORD, THE RING IS SETTLING DOWN IN ITS NEW COURSE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BOTH SEND AND RECEIVE AS THE TEMPORAL DISTORTIONS ARE SORTED OUT.

LISTEN TO ME! I AM THE QUEEN EMERALDAS!!

I WILL SHOW NO MERCY TO THOSE WHO DARE TO APPROACH ME UNBIDDEN.

I REPEAT, THIS IS THE QUEEN EMERALDAS!

THE MASTER FOR WHOM I HAVE WAITED HAS NOW ARRIVED, AND I AM ASLEEP NO MORE!!

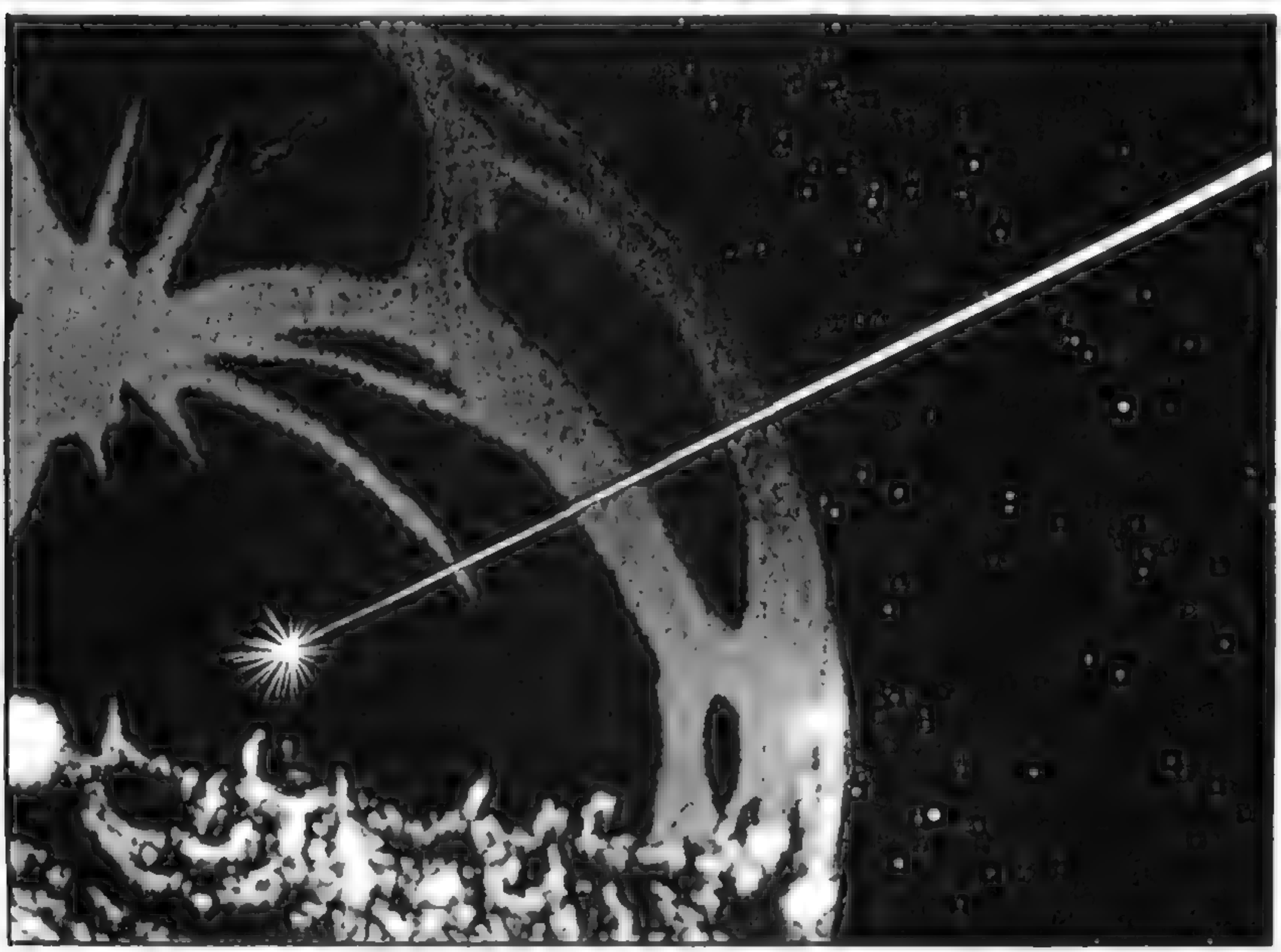
NOW I WILL SHOW NEITHER MERCY NOR PARDON TO ANY WHO DARE TO APPROACH ME UNBIDDEN BY MY MASTER!!!

FREYA? CAN SHE HEAR ME?!

SABELLA?! CAN YOU HEAR ME?! DON'T DO IT! STAY AWAY FROM THAT SHIP!!!

I'M SORRY, MY LORD ... MY WOTAN ... BUT I MUST.

I'VE LOST HER SIGNAL, MY LORD.

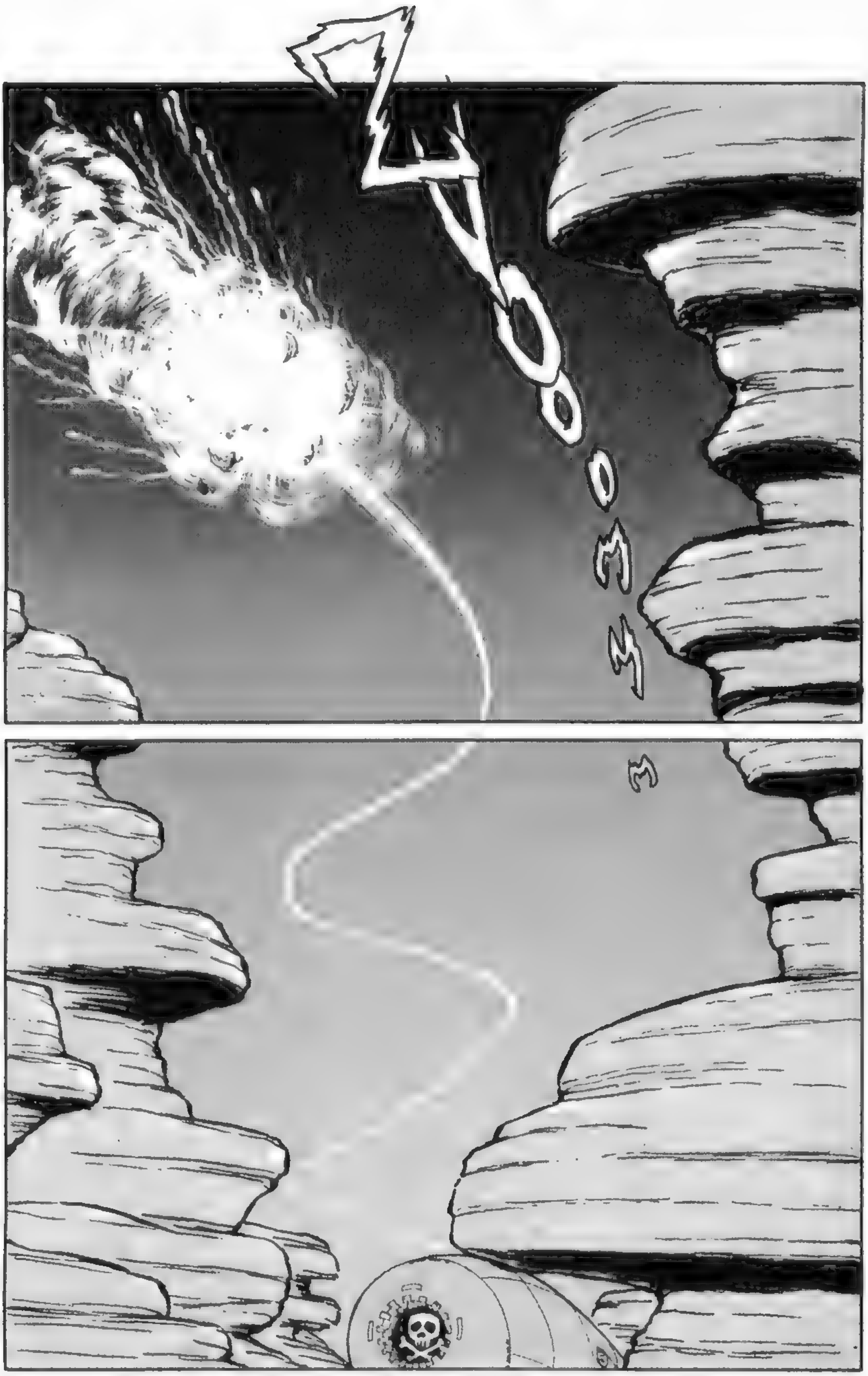


AHHH ... THERE YOU ARE! I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT IMPRESSED.

HOW COULD THIS DECRIPT OLD WRECK POSSIB--

BLAM!!

BRZZZZT!!!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WHAT WAS THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION.

MY SHIP SEEMS TO HAVE SHOT DOWN A SNOOPER ....

IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE QUEEN EMERALDAS SHOT HER DOWN, MY LORD.

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DID SABELLA CUT OUT LIKE THAT?

POOR FOOL. IF ONLY ... !

GOOD THING I EJECTED JUST IN TIME.

OOOFFF!!!

OKAY, SO MUCH FOR A GRACEFUL ENTRANCE. NOW FOR THAT SHIP ....

SHOT DOWN?! HOW?!! THAT'S A SHIP FROM VALHALLA! IT HAS ENERGY SCREENS FAR SUPERIOR TO ANYTHING THOSE PUNY MORTALS IN THAT RING OF TIME CAN POSSIBLY DREAM OF!!!

LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A ONE-MAN CRAFT OF SOME KIND. ANY IDEAS, HARLOCK?

HMM ....

THE BOYS! BUT WHO ARE THOSE TWO GIRLS WITH THEM?

THEY MUST HAVE SHOT AT ME FROM THE SHIP! PERHAPS THEY WERE ALSO THE ONES WHO GOT IT WORKING AGAIN!!

A HOLY HAND GRENADE WILL TAKE CARE OF THE LOT OF THEM -- AND THE SHIP, TOO.

FIRST, YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN THAT TO DESTROY THAT SHIP. SECOND, ONLY A COWARD SHOOTS AT CHILDREN.

WHA--?

IT'S FAR OLDER AND HAS MORE POWER THAN ANYTHING OUR MASTERS HAVE GIVEN US.

A VALHALLAN HOLY HAND GRENADE. WORKS ON CHARGED ANTIGRAVITY. I'VE NO DOUBT YOU COULD TAKE OUT THIS VALLEY AND EVERYTHING IN IT, BUT IT WOULDN'T EVEN SCRATCH THAT SHIP OVER THERE.

MACHINE KNIGHT HELLMAZARIA!!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!?!

WHY? DO THEY NEED PROTECTING?

ARE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT THOSE CHILDREN?!

I HAVE MY ORDERS!!! JUST AS YOU DO!!! JUST AS BRUNHILDE DOES!!!

THEN AGAIN, I'M NOT THE ONE POINTING A ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADE LAUNCHER AT THEM.

YOU ARE A FOOL, SABELLA.

IS THAT WHY THE LADY BRUNHILDE DEFIED HER ORDERS? IS THAT WHY SHE TURNED TRAITOR TO HER LORD WOTAN?

THESE FOUR CHILDREN HAVE A DESTINY TO FULFILL IN THIS RING OF TIME, SABELLA. NEITHER YOU NOR I CAN CHANGE THAT. NOT EVEN THE MIGHTY WOTAN CAN, EITHER -- MUCH AS HE MIGHT WISH TO DO SO.

NO!!!

BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS ARE HAVING DINNER WITH GREAT HARLOCK.

EVEN NOW, WHILE YOU TRY TO CARRY OUT THIS FOOL'S ERRAND OF YOURS ...

I'M AFRAID SO.

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

LOOK OVER THERE! IT'S THE OLD SHIP! IT'S LIFTING OFF!

I'D ADVISE YOU TO FIND ONE AND GET BACK TO VALHALLA. NOW.

YOU KNOW, YOU CAN GET JUST ABOUT ANY KIND OF SHIP HERE.

OH, NO! THAT THING'S NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME!!!

EVERY GREAT JOURNEY HAS A BEGINNING. SO IT IS WITH LIFE'S STRUGGLES. THE RISE OF THE QUEEN EMERALDAS INTO THE SKIES OF THE PLANET METABLOODY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A LIFETIME OF STRUGGLE AGAINST TWO POWERFUL ENEMIES -- THE MACHINE KNIGHT HELLMAZARIA AND THE FOURSOME OF HARLOCK, TOCHIRO, EMERALDAS, AND MAETEL. THEY WILL BE THE PRIME MOVERS OF THE FATE OF HUMANITY ONE WAY OR ANOTHER -- TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE AS HUMANS OR TOWARDS A UNIVERSE OF MECHANIZED OPPRESSION. SO DESTINY HAS WILLED IT, AND NOT EVEN THE MIGHTY WOTAN CAN CHALLENGE THAT DESTINY. EVEN HIS OWN DAUGHTER BRUNHILDE IS WISE ENOUGH TO SEE THIS. THAT IS WHY SHE AND HER VALKYRIES NOW DEFY WOTAN, AND RIDE FOR THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM!

The Valkyrie

Ring 28 ; A Dream That Outlasts Time

YES, THE MOSGALUT WERE QUITE THE STELLAR ENGINEERS -- WOULDN'T YOU SAY, SABELLA?

THIS SHIP ...

SUCH POWER ...

I'VE HEARD TELL THE GODS KNOW LITTLE ABOUT THE MOSGALUT, SAVE THAT THEY EXISTED BEFORE THEM.

THE EMBLEM IT BEARS ... IT'S THE SAME AS ON GREAT HARLOCK'S SHIP, THE DEATH SHADOW!!

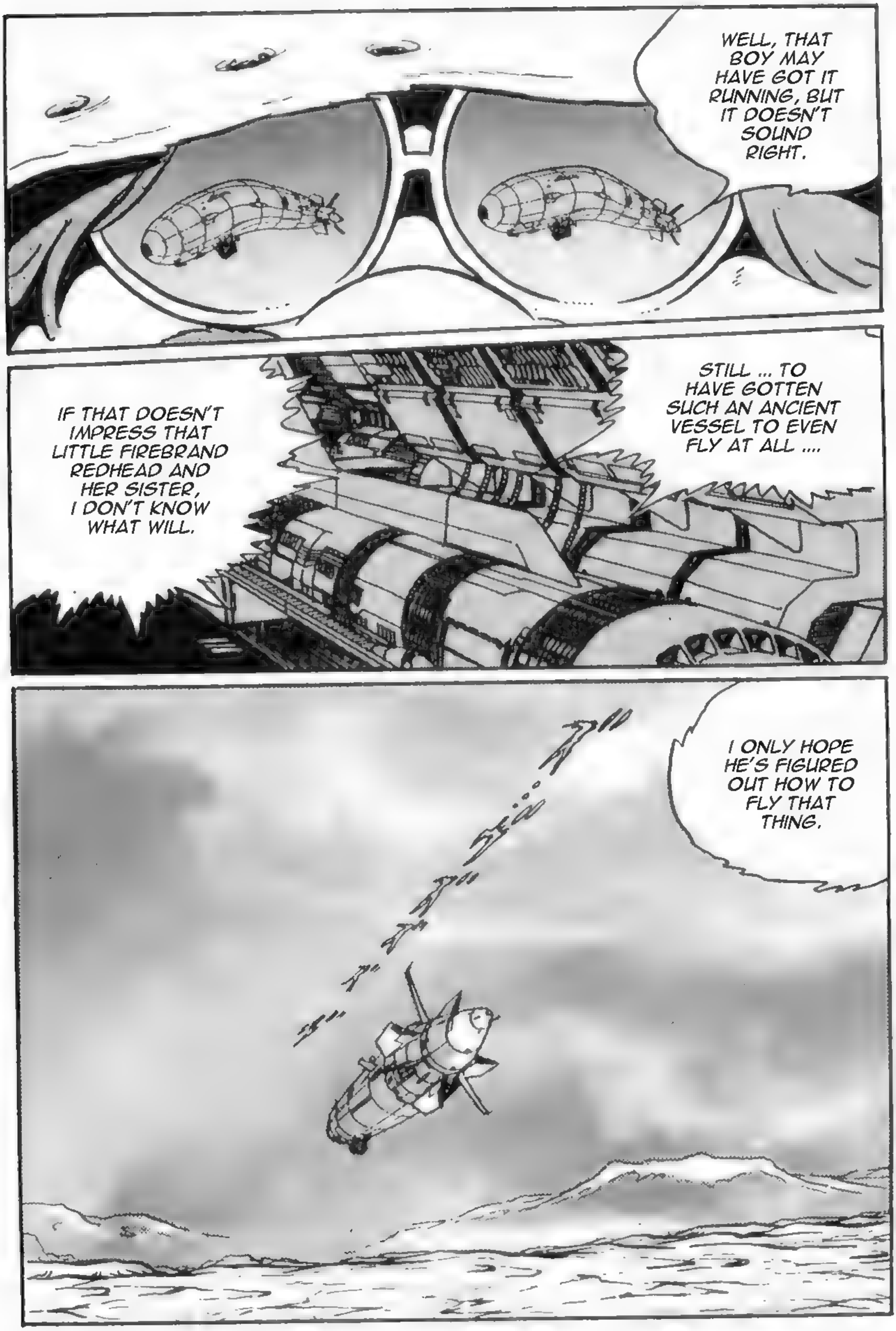
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!

I THINK MY BOY FIGURED OUT HOW TO GET THAT OLD SHIP RUNNING AGAIN, HARLOCK.

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN IT.

I ALSO THINK THOSE GIRLS WERE SUPPOSED TO FIND IT ... BUT NOT HERE. NOT ON THIS WORLD, ANYWAY.

BUT HOW COULD THEY FIND IT IF THEY DIDN'T . . . OH, YEAH, RIGHT. I GET IT. I WONDER JUST HOW MUCH HISTORY WOTAN HAS SCREWED UP.


WELL, THAT BOY MAY HAVE GOT IT RUNNING, BUT IT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT.
IF THAT DOESN'T IMPRESS THAT LITTLE FIREBRAND REDHEAD AND HER SISTER, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL.
STILL ... TO HAVE GOTTEN SUCH AN ANCIENT VESSEL TO EVEN FLY AT ALL ....
I ONLY HOPE HE'S FIGURED OUT HOW TO FLY THAT THING.

OF COURSE YOU KNOW THEY ARE GOING TO SURPASS BOTH OF YOU SOME DAY, DON'T YOU?

YOU TWO HAVE SOME INCREDIBLE CHILDREN.

BUT OF COURSE. THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.

YES ... TIME WILL NEVER BETRAY THE DREAMS OF THOSE TWO.

I WARNED MY FATHER THEY WERE DESTINED FOR GREATNESS.

YOUTH MAY LAST BUT A MOMENT, BUT ITS EFFECTS CAN BE FELT FOR INFINITY.

IT'S THE SAME WITH YOU. THAT IS WHY ... I COULDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT.

HARLOCK ...

I ... I ...

BRUNHILDE ...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

AS SOON AS YOU VALKYRIES CAME IN HERE, EVERYBODY SCRAMBLED OUT AS FAST AS THEY COULD. I THINK YOUR REPUTATIONS PRECEEDED YOU.

WHERE DID THEY ALL GO?

JUST IGNORE IT. I DO.

ARE WE IMMORTALS REALLY THAT FRIGHTENING, TO THEM, MIIME?

THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS, MY LADY. LORD WOTAN'S EFFORTS TO THWART IT BY BENDING THIS RING OF TIME HAVE FAILED.

TELL ME, MIIME. WHAT CAN THOSE FAR-SEEING EYES OF YOURS DISCERN?

... AND I FOR ONE AM GLAD THAT THE GODS WILL RULE THE HEAVENS NO MORE!

ALL THAT YOU HAVE KNOWN, BRUNHILDE, IS GOING TO PERISH ...

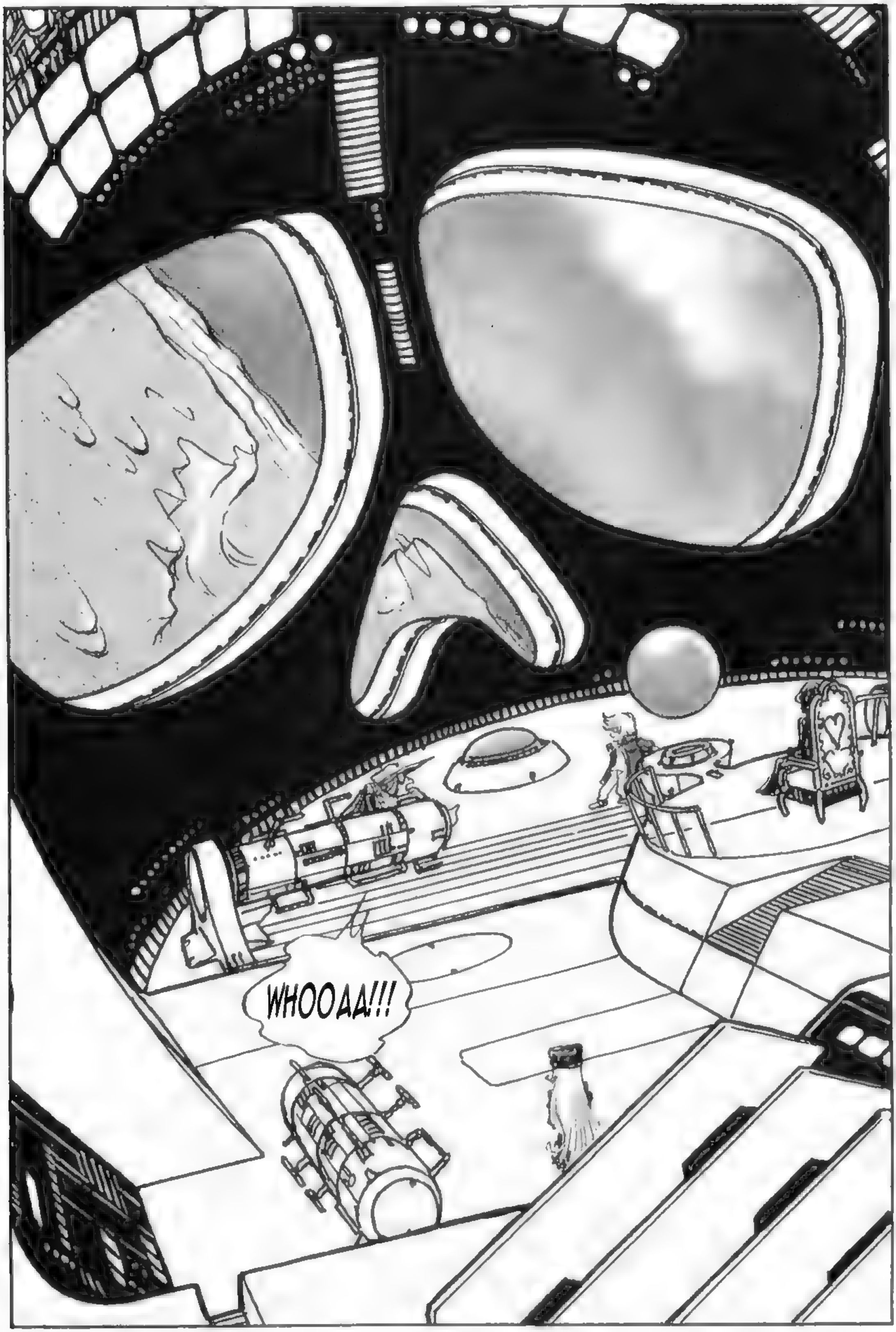
I MUST ADMIT THAT MY VIEW IS PREJUDICED, COMING FROM A PEOPLE WHO WERE CAST OUT OF VALHALLA BY YOUR FATHER. FORGIVE ME.

THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS ....

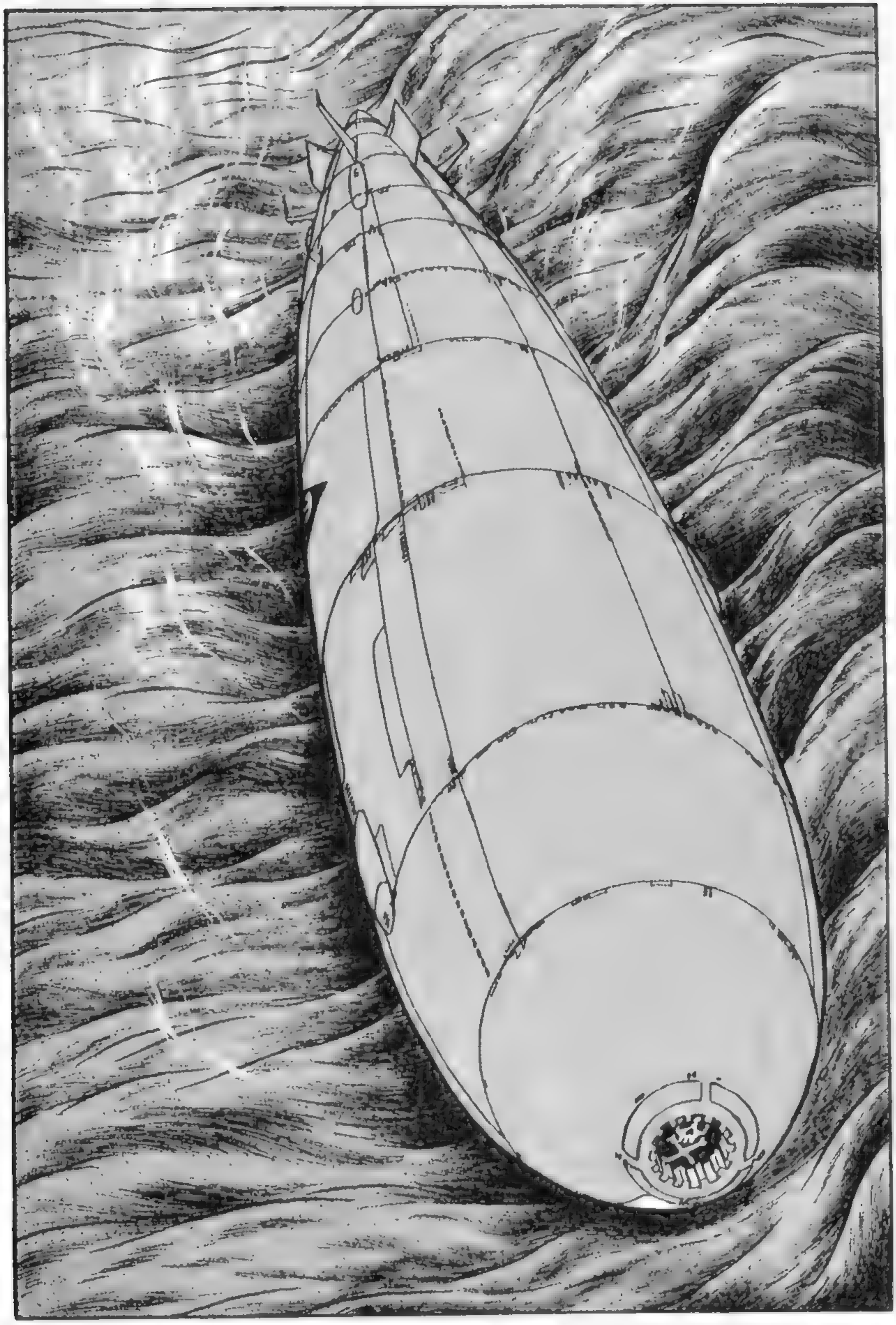
"TUTOR" IS THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

MIIME ... WHY ARE YOU HERE SERVING GREAT HARLOCK? ARE YOU PLAYING MOTHER TO THESE TWO BOYS?

SO IT **IS** TRUE. THESE TWO BOYS ARE DESTINED TO BRING ABOUT THE FALL OF THE GODS.


WHOOAA!!!

IT ... IT'S COMING BACK HERE!!!



NOTHING MUST STAND IN THE WAY OF MY MISSION -- NOTHING!!!

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO DESTROY THIS THING -- AND THOSE LITTLE BRATS AS WELL!!

SO THAT'S THE EMBLEM OF THESE PIRATES?! IT'LL MAKE A NICE TARGET SPOT!!!

AGHH ...

AAAH ...

YOU'RE TRYING TO FIGHT A LIVING SHIP, SABELLA. A SHIP OF THE MOSGALUT. YOU CAN'T WIN.

GY AGH!!!

I AM THE QUEEN EMERALDAS, FOOL!!! I COULD HAVE EASILY KILLED YOU HAD I CHOSE. YET I SHOW MERCY EVEN THOUGH YOU FAILED TO HEED MY WARNINGS.

THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING!! LEAVE, AND NEVER RETURN!!!

HELLMAZARIA! YOU HAVE SHOWN ADMIRABLE RESTRAINT! ONE DAY WE WILL FIGHT AS FOES, BUT FOR NOW WE PART AS FRIENDS. FARE THEE WELL, MACHINE KNIGHT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT DAY. UNTIL THEN, I BID THEE FAREWELL, SHIP OF THE MOSGALUT.

IT KNOWS ME ... I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT, AND IT KNOWS ALL ABOUT ME!

DON'T!

MY LORD WOTAN--

УДАНН!!!
FOOLISH GIRL! THE GODS OF VALHALLA CANNOT HELP YOU NOW!!!
CUT OUT? HOW?
I HAVE LOST SABELLA'S SIGNAL, MY LORD. IT CUT OUT THE SAME WAY AS DID BRUNHILDE'S.

WHY DID WE LOSE SABELLA?!

I WANT SOME ANSWERS!

I BELIEVE SHE TRIED TO GO UP AGAINST THAT ANCIENT SHIP, MY LORD, AND LOST.

METABLOODY MAY NOT BE CIVILIZED AS WE DEFINE IT, BUT I BELIEVE ITS ANCIENT SECRET MAY BE OUR EQUAL ....

MY ... MY ARMS ... SUCH PAIN!!

WHEN YOU GET BACK TO VALHALLA, TELL LORD WOTAN THAT HIS ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE DESTINY OF THOSE TWO BOYS HAS FAILED.

YOU COULD BE DEAD RIGHT NOW. BE GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

REMEMBER THAT! NO ONE CAN CHALLENGE THE NORNS!

GO BACK TO VALHALLA WITH MY WORDS, AND DO NOT FAIL TO DELIVER THEM! NOW GO!!!

THE MACHINE WOMAN SPEAKS THE TRUTH, AND I ADD THIS PROPHECY ... TELL WOTAN THAT SHOULD HE EVER SEE ME IN THE SKIES OF HIS BELOVED VALHALLA, THEN HE WILL SURELY KNOW THAT THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS IS AT HAND!!

DO YOU HAVE IT BACK UNDER CONTROL NOW, TOCHIRO?

NO ... I JUST STOPPED FIDDLING WITH IT, AND IT SETTLED DOWN ON ITS OWN. WHAT AN INTELLEGENT SHIP!

THAT IS TRUE, MY LITTLE FRIEND, AND YET I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR TALENTS IN GETTING MY MAIN DRIVE WORKING AGAIN.

OUR MEETING WAS PREDESTINED, TOCHIRO OYAMA, REGARDESS OF THE PLACE OR TIME. YOU WILL LEARN FROM ME, AND USE WHAT YOU LEARN IN THE BUILDING OF YOUR OWN MIGHTY STARSHIP.

I WILL? HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT?!

I HAVE WAITED FOR YOU THIS LONG, YOUNG ONE. I ... NO ... WE CAN WAIT A WHILE LONGER.

IS THAT NOT SO, MISTRESS?

I'LL BE BACK YOU OLD SHIP, AFTER I LEARN ALL THAT I CAN ABOUT STARSHIPS. CAN YOU WAIT UNTIL THEN?

OH, WELL! NEVER LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH, AS MY DAD ALWAYS SAYS!

... BUT WE WILL MEET AGAIN. I PROMISE YOU.

OH, GOODY!!

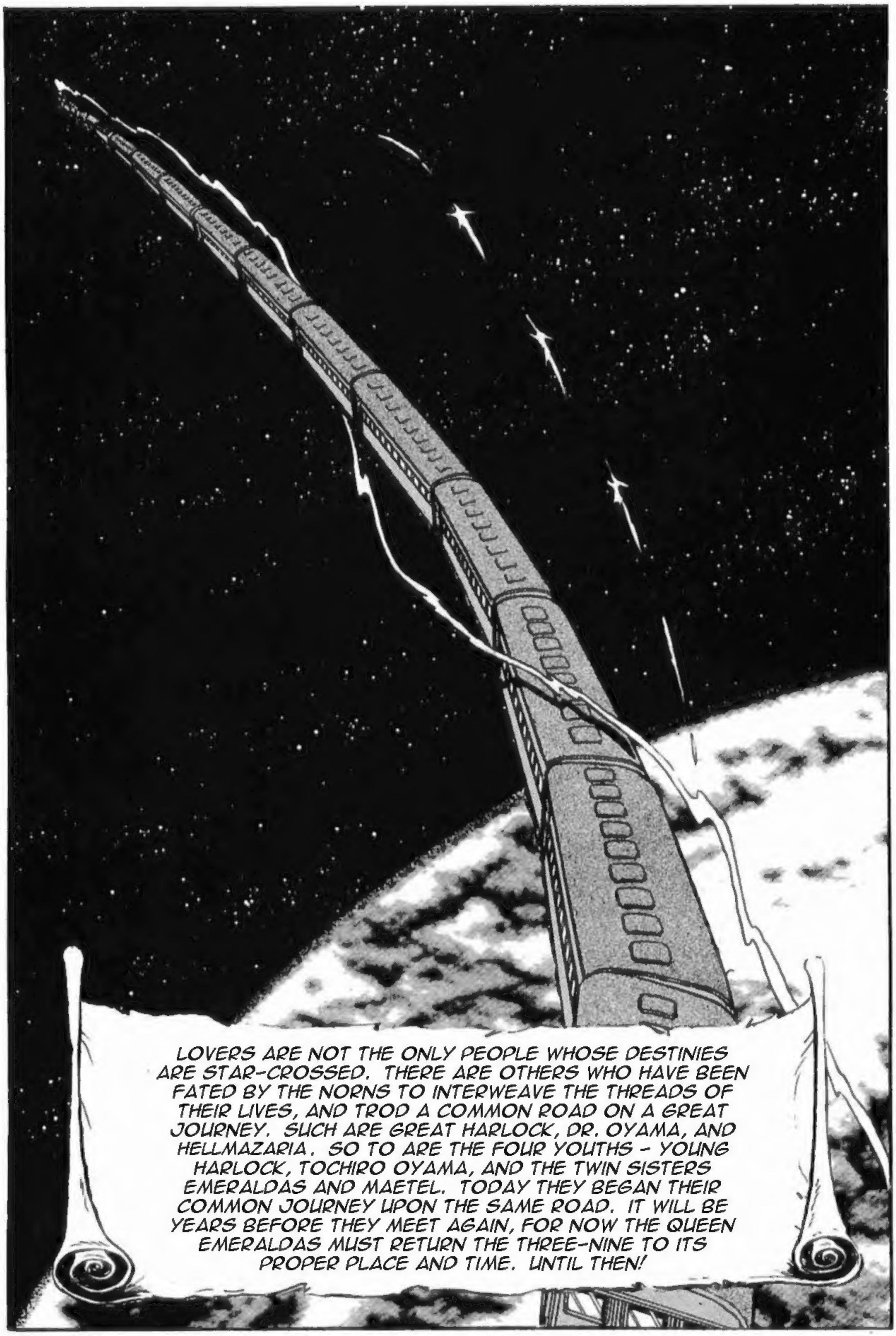
YES ... MAETEL AND I NEED TO GO BACK TO OUR PROPER PLACE AND TIME ...

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, YOUNG HARLOCK!

IT SEEMS WE WERE DESTINED TO MEET ... A MEETING THAT NOT EVEN THE ANCIENT GODS COULD CHANGE.

THIS SHIP KNOWS HOW TO NAVIGATE KNOTS IN TIME. IT'S ALREADY TOLD THE THREE-NINE HOW TO GET US BACK.

HOW WILL YOU GET BACK?


LOVERS ARE NOT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHOSE DESTINIES ARE STAR-CROSSED. THERE ARE OTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN FATED BY THE NORNS TO INTERWEAVE THE THREADS OF THEIR LIVES, AND TROD A COMMON ROAD ON A GREAT JOURNEY. SUCH ARE GREAT HARLOCK, DR. OYAMA, AND HELLMAZARIA. SO TO ARE THE FOUR YOUTHS - YOUNG HARLOCK, TOCHIRO OYAMA, AND THE TWIN SISTERS EMERALDAS AND MAETEL. TODAY THEY BEGAN THEIR COMMON JOURNEY UPON THE SAME ROAD. IT WILL BE YEARS BEFORE THEY MEET AGAIN, FOR NOW THE QUEEN EMERALDAS MUST RETURN THE THREE-NINE TO ITS PROPER PLACE AND TIME. UNTIL THEN!

To be concluded in The Valkyrie Part 3